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Gov't, rebel MKs wrangle over long school day

EVELYN GORDON

THE government decided late last night to withdraw the economic arrangements bill accompanying the budget if two renegade Labor MKs do not withdraw an amendment to extend the school day until 4 o'clock.

A group of Labor ministers was scheduled to meet with faction chairman Eli Dayan and MK Rafi Edri at midnight last night to try to persuade them to drop their amendment, after a meeting of the "sareinu" forum of Labor ministers failed to achieve this result.

Justice Minister David Liba'i said there is no chance the two would persuade the government to adopt their view, and many in Labor believe that sticking to his guns will cost Dayan his faction chairmanship.

Meanwhile, eight Arab MKs - three from Hadash, two from the DAP, two from Labor, and one from Meretz - are threatening to vote against the budget and the economic arrangements bill unless Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin grants them an urgent meeting and agrees to their financial demands.

As of midnight, no such meeting was scheduled, and according to Abdul Wahab Darawsh (DAP), Rabin does not intend to meet with the Arabs until he has resolved the issue of the Dayan-Edri amendment.

However, a "no" vote by the Arabs would not topple the government if Shas and Yit'ud vote for the budget, which seems likely. Shas leader Aryeh Deri and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat reportedly agreed on a multi-year plan for development in the haredi sector about a month ago, after which Shas agreed to vote for the budget rather than abstaining.

Shohat admitted there was an agreement on a multi-year plan with Shas, but dated it from two years ago.

The bill to extend the school day until 4 p.m., which only a day ago appeared to have the support of a majority of the Knesset, appeared to be in danger of falling victim to petty party politics, even if Dayan and Edri stand firm, as both they and Likud MKs threatened not to vote for the other's virtually identical proposal on the subject.

Neither proposal can pass without the support of MKs from both parties, since the Arab parties decided to oppose the idea saying their communities would not be included in the stage to be implemented in the coming school year.

Dayan and Edri insisted from the start that they would not vote for a similar bill by Meir Sheerit (Likud). Yesterday, Sheerit advocated that the Likud retaliate by voting against Dayan and Edri's bill rather than letting them get the credit for the idea, even though this will mean torpedoing the proposal.

Asked which was really more important, the goal or the credit, Sheerit shrugged: "They're both important."

However, the Likud has not decided definitely to follow Sheerit's advice, so the proposal could still pass.

Meanwhile, Shohat remained adamant in his threat to withdraw the economic arrangements bill before the third reading if the longer school day amendment passes.

"You can't run a coalition in this fashion," he said. "In principle, I view the extension of the school day favorably. But I don't accept this way of doing it... The government must bring the proposal in an orderly fashion."

The government has agreed to set up a committee to study the issue, which will issue its conclusions by the end of June, he said, and he hopes to implement the longer school day within two years.



An Efrat resident looks on as Palestinians pray on the hill-top where work has begun on an extension to Efrat. (Reuters)

Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia hold summit

News agencies

LEADERS of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia gathered in Alexandria yesterday to review the peace process and boost Arab solidarity, ministers said. "They will discuss the Arab situation, how to improve it... they will discuss the peace process and why it is deadlocked," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara told reporters, after a preparatory ministerial meeting.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Shetif said the summit, only announced by Egypt yesterday, was also aimed at "resolving Arab differences and coordinating efforts towards solidarity."

"At a summit like this I think all the issues will be discussed - the Middle East peace process,

Arab relations and international issues," he said.

Last week, *The Jerusalem Post* reported from Cairo that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was due to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Saudi King Fahd, after his meetings with President Ezer Weizman.

Mubarak assured Weizman he would raise various options for pushing forward the peace process, according to sources.

Asked if there was any truth to reports that Syria is trying to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold after four years of isolation following its invasion of Kuwait, Shara said:

"Iraq has made some progress

in implementing certain UN resolutions, but there are other resolutions which have to be implemented."

Mubarak, Fahd and Assad met yesterday, and were scheduled to meet again this morning.

Earlier in the day, Assad and Fahd held separate meetings with Mubarak.

Asked if Syria resented other Arab countries speeding up normalization of relations with Israel despite the lack of progress on the Syrian track, Shara said, "We resent the steps which are taking place which lead to increased Israeli intransigence."

Diplomats say Syria was upset

by the decision of the six Gulf Arab states to drop the 46-year-old boycott of companies trading with Israel.

In 1991, the three countries signed the Damascus Declaration, a defense and economic pact with Kuwait and four other Gulf Arab states. Egypt and Syria have not lived up to the expectations created by the agreement.

Egypt has sought acknowledgment that it has a security role to play in the Gulf.

Syria has also sought more backing from the six oil-rich Gulf states to secure full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

MK Zucker visits Vanunu in prison

DAN IZENBERG

CONVICTED spy Mordechai Vanunu has not seen another prisoner during his eight years in solitary confinement, and speaks only to members of his family and the warden of Ashkelon Prison, Knesset Law Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker said yesterday.

Zucker and Police Minister Moshe Shahal visited Vanunu earlier in the day. Zucker, who won General Security Service consent for the visit after threatening to petition the High Court of Justice, said he wanted to examine Vanunu's prison conditions.

In describing to reporters what he saw, Zucker presented the first public description of Vanunu's circumstances since he was abducted in 1986 and brought to Israel. He was subsequently convicted of treason and espionage for revealing classified information about the Dimona nuclear power plant.

"I met a man who looks very good," said Zucker. "He is healthy, according to medical assessments and his own testimony. He seems to be a man with a very impressive inner strength, stable and rational. Some of the things he said appeared to Shahal and me to be strange, but not indicative of mental unbalance."

Zucker also described Vanunu as a man who did not seem to need other people.

Vanunu's cell is 12 meters square and windowless, with white ceramic tiles running up most of the length of the walls. The only aperture is a window in the steel door. The room is furnished with a bed, table, chair, a television set, radio and bookshelves. He has a

small cross nailed to the wall and describes himself as a "non-religious Christian," said Zucker.

Vanunu is studying German and appears to deliberately refrain from reading Hebrew. He receives newspapers from abroad, and all his books are in foreign languages.

He wakes up at 7 a.m. and spends most of his hours reading. He is allowed two hours of exercise a day in a courtyard empty of other prisoners.

Vanunu is allowed one visit a week from members of his immediate family, but is apparently visited frequently, an indication of strained relations and the suffering his family has undergone as a result of the affair, said Zucker.

Zucker described Vanunu as "not bitter, but extremely suspicious toward anything smacking of government, including MKs."

"He has a profound sense of mission and did not express regret over his actions," added Zucker.

He said the only things Vanunu asked from his visitors was that Israelis continue to discuss the country's nuclear activities and that he be removed from solitary confinement.

Zucker said he would fight to abolish the regulations governing solitary confinement that were introduced the year after Vanunu was jailed. According to the regulations, a prisoner may be held in solitary confinement for an unlimited time, and only prison officials are involved in the periodic meetings that must be held according to the law to review their cases.

Israel said helping China develop warplane

ALON PINKAS

US officials claim that Israel is using American technology, transferred for the scrapped Lavi jet, in a joint program to develop an advanced tactical jet for China, *The Los Angeles Times* reported.

The existence of a prototype F-10 Chinese jet was reported earlier in the month by the British *Flight International* magazine, which said that Israel has been guiding the program since 1992.

Diplomatic sources here did not deny that Israel and China have expanded defense ties in recent years, but declined to comment on the F-10 program. Defense officials said that, as a matter of policy, Israel does not comment on its business partners.

"All I can tell you is that whatever defense contacts and programs Israel has with foreign governments, the US is knowledgeable about if it is directly or indirectly involved, politically or technologically," said a defense ministry source.

In an article by the *Times*' Jim Mann, US officials are reported to have concluded that China and Israel are collaborating to develop and produce an improved fighter for the Chinese air force.

Comparable to an American F-16, the new plane will be based on the Lavi and will incorporate extensive technological innovations derived from that project, Mann wrote.

Mann said China and Israel already have finished work on a prototype, and production will probably start soon at a plant in Chengdu, in Sichuan Province.

"This plane would fit in with a scenario for [conflict over] Taiwan 10 years from now," he quoted one US government expert as saying. "And for someone to help the Chinese build a production line, a turn-key facility for this aircraft, is ominous."

The article stressed that the program was monitored and discussed in the US intelligence community, but that White House and State Department officials said there has been no official diplomatic protest to Israel.

Marvin Klemow, Washington-based vice president for government affairs of Israeli Aircraft Industries International, denied that IAI is transferring American technology to China.

"IAI does not transfer any technology illegally. Any technology that requires a license from the US, we apply for that license," Klemow told Mann. "And we have not applied for any license for any Lavi-associated technology for China."

US laws forbid Israel to pass on to another country any military technology obtained directly from the US. Any company that violates those laws can be suspended from doing military business in the US.

GDP up almost 7% during past year

JOSE ROSENFIELD

THE economy roared ahead this year, as the Gross Domestic Product jumped 6.8 percent to push the annual per capita income to \$13,730, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In its year-end estimates, the bureau favorably compared Israel's economic performance, as measured by GDP growth and lower unemployment, to that of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development countries.

The comparison also highlighted the country's inflation and trade deficit problems.

Full story, Page 8

Peres: Efrat expansion 'serves no purpose'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres indicated last night that the expansion of the settlement of Efrat should be halted, as it interferes with the continuation of the peace process.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, meanwhile, has asked Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair for an opinion on whether Jews are legally entitled to build on the neighboring hilltop.

Ben-Yair is scheduled to render his opinion to the cabinet early next week. He is reportedly convening a large number of legal experts today.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a phone conversation with Peres, bitterly complained about the Efrat expansion.

meeting of PA ministers last night and issued a statement afterward, calling settlement expansion a violation of the Israel-Palestinian accords and demanding international intervention.

It said that the issue must "be treated as a political problem in the framework of the DOP, and not one of Israeli law."

The relatively mild statement may have been due to Arafat's earlier telephone conversation with Peres.

Settlers and Palestinians have put forward contradictory claims. Efrat residents say some of the land was purchased from Arabs, while the rest was allocated by the government in 1983.

But residents of El Khader claim they have proof they own the land.

Settlement leaders vowed to defy any attempt by the government to halt Efrat's expansion.

Both sides dig in at Givat Tamar: Page 2

Palestinian Authority leaders predicted that Israel's settlement policy would destroy the peace talks, but said they would not halt negotiations for now. The PA discussed the expansion of Efrat yesterday for over three hours.

"For the time being we will not stop negotiations with Israel, but if they continue this settlement policy, this is going to destroy the peace process as a whole," PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said after the meeting.

"I think that at this time, [the expansion] is not needed," Peres told Channel One last night. "It serves no purpose. It is not the most urgent thing in the world. We are at the start of the second phase of the peace process. One must allow the peace process to be conducted amid reasonable conditions."

Peres indicated that the cabinet's calculation in deciding whether to enable the Efrat expansion to continue unimpeded must transcend the legal question, and that political factors must also be taken into account. At the same time, he denied that stopping construction would be yielding to Palestinian pressure.

Until Ben-Yair gives his opinion, the bulldozers will be allowed to work, officials said.

Peres promised Arafat that "we would try to stop the construction until Ben-Yair's opinion comes out, but now it appears that we cannot do it," according to Peres's spokeswoman, Bahira Bardugo.

Israeli officials privately admit that Arafat is likely to feel tricked, because immediately after his phone call with Peres yesterday he publicly announced that he had a commitment that the work near Efrat would be stopped.

Arafat convened a special

even if it means a confrontation with the army.

Thousands of settlement supporters will demonstrate at the site if work is halted, said council spokesman Yechiel Leiter.

Palestinian protesters, including many women, camped on the disputed hill yesterday.

Meretz ministers did not delve into the question of the legality of the Efrat expansion, but argued that settlement expansion is inconsistent with peace.

"The government cannot act upon the dictate imposed by the Right," Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said. "If we did and accepted their facts, we won't achieve peace."

He said that if it turns out the settlers are legally entitled to build, it would be preferable to compensate them rather than allow them to continue building.

Dan Izenberg adds: The National Religious Party and Tsomet submitted a no-confidence motion yesterday after hearing an erroneous news report that a halt to the construction work had been ordered.

Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) also demanded that Ben-Yair order a police investigation of allegations that left-wing organizations and individuals incited El Khader residents to violence.

The Meretz Knesset faction and Peace Now leaders, meanwhile, decided to join forces in efforts to halt the construction.

The faction passed a resolution calling on the government to stop the work for political and security reasons. It also called on Rabin to cancel the government order allowing the supervisor of abandoned property in Judea and Samaria to allocate expropriated land to private contractors.

THE FOYER HAS OPENED

The Foyer of the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center has opened

- "Cafe Opera" will be open daily from 10:00 am to 01:00 am
- "Opus" - music shop - will be open daily from 10:00 am to 21:00 pm
- Amphitheater - events will be held one hour before each performance. Open to the general public
- Guided tours - every Sun, Tue & Thu at 09:45, tickets: 15 NIS at Box office.
- Groups by reservation only on 6927713.
- Akim Mask Exhibition - till 28 January 1995.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, 19 Shaul Hamelech Blv. Tel Aviv.

 The Opera House

Both sides dig in over disputed hill

JON IMMANUEL

DOZENS of Palestinians camped yesterday on Baaten al Maasi/Givat Tamar, the disputed hill between El Khader and Efrat which has triggered a premature tug-of-war between Israel and the Palestinian Authority over land ownership.

The protesters, including many women, ignored indications that the government was looking for a way to stop the establishment of the new Efrat neighborhood begun on Sunday.

They hoisted flags, pitched tents and vowed to remain another night on the barren, rocky summit that has become a shrine, and to continue their vigil until the bulldozers are sent home.

But there was none of the violence of Tuesday's clash between protesters and troops, although emotions heightened by that confrontation have increased the determination of Palestinians to make the issue a sacred cause. Reporters from the Voice of Palestine repeatedly said in their broadcasts that it represented "judicialization of the occupied territories."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, already blamed by his local critics for acceding to Israel's demand that all settlements remain intact until final talks, is under pressure to put the peace process on the line over Efrat's expansion plan. He convened a special meeting of PA

ministers last night, and was expected to issue a condemnation and a call for international intervention to pressure Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke with Arafat twice yesterday in a bid to decrease the tension. He said that building the neighborhood was neither pressing nor useful.

PA Planning Minister Nabil Sha'ath, visiting Palestinian women prisoners, said, "I think that Efrat is a major setback, and I am sure the Israeli government will reconsider it."

Freedom for women prisoners, the top Palestinian demand since autonomy began in May, took second place yesterday to the battle on the hill.

"The peace process will collapse basically over the settlements and the expansion of the settlements," said PA Justice Minister Freih Abu-Meidin in Gaza.

"Sometimes the oppressed are always 100 percent right and the oppressors are always 100 percent wrong. That is how it was with Hitler and the Jews and that is how it is with us," said Salah Ta'amari, who came to the site as a representative of Arafat.

Ta'amari, the PLO commander in south Lebanon in 1982, embraced dialogue with Israel over

armed confrontation after surrendering to Israeli forces in Sidon during the Lebanon war.

Hanan Porat, one of the foremost settlement leaders in the National Religious Party, was equally stubborn. "We will not permit anything to destroy our vision of the return of the sons to their borders."

Five bulldozers, out of reach behind a military police barrier, continued ploughing up the land for a dirt road, the first stage of the project to turn the hill into a 500-home neighborhood.

Building has been continuing in many settlements since the peace process began, "but you see in this case [that] the land is far from Efrat. It is a new settlement with a new name, Givat Tamar," said Samir Othman, a former mayor of El-Khader. The village lays claim to the 500 dunam area.

He denied Israeli claims that the land had no private owners. The land, he said, was owned by three clans, Salah, Daaduah and Sbeih, who divided it among some 40 families.

"There are owners with full documents for this land. The owners of this land lived in El-Khader for more than 100 years."

In Efrat, Yinnon Ahimani, the local council head, asserted that "The site was bought for NIS 2

million from the State of Israel by a private foundation representing 500 purchasers."

The civil administration declared it state land in 1981, and the High Court of Justice upheld the declaration against appeals.

The opposition has said it will consider a ruling against the new neighborhood a serious concession to Palestinian pressure.

Only a decision by the High Court of Justice that the sale of the land by the state was illegal or should not be developed for private use may bring the current controversy to a smooth conclusion.

"I will respect any decision by the High Court," Ahimani said yesterday.

Efrat's motives in going ahead with the new neighborhood at this particular time have been called political, tied to rumors of imminent self-rule for the Bethlehem area. But residents there say that the 4,000-strong community, including many Americans, was simply running out of room.

"Rabin came to speak to us in Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York in 1984 and told us how important it was that we Americans move to Efrat," said Mordechai Goodman, who runs the local Pizzeria.

Rabin's position now shows "We're at fourth down and one yard to go in the Zionist dream," he said.

Yesha leaders vow to continue expansion

BILL HUTMAN

SETTLEMENT leaders vowed yesterday to defy any attempt by the government to halt Efrat's expansion, even if it means a confrontation with the army.

The leaders emphasized, however, that they had received no official word that the government had ordered the work halted, despite news reports to the contrary.

Bulldozers were still at work at the site last night, with residents of the neighboring village of El Khader being kept at a distance by the army, according to the settlement leaders.

They said work would continue "around the clock" on the initial groundwork for the new neighborhood, Givat Tamar, in ef-

fort to put facts on the ground that the government would find difficult to reverse.

Leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza met with MKs supporting their effort in the Knesset last night, to finalize plans in the event the government ordered work halted.

Thousands of settlement supporters will demonstrate at the site if work is halted, said council spokesman Yechiel Leiter.

He warned that an argument by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that work had to be stopped in the name of public safety, which

he is reportedly considering, would backfire.

"What we are saying is that if work stops he will not have to deal with 15 or 20 Peace Now activists and a 100 Palestinians from El Khader, but thousands of people from Judea and Samaria, and elsewhere," Leiter said.

"If he wants to avoid that confrontation, he should remain in the confines of law and order and the government decision to allow for construction."

Council leaders said Rabin personally gave approval for construction of Givat Tamar at a meeting two weeks ago with Efrat local council head Yinnon

Ahimani.

"If Rabin ordered work halted, we will view this as his having stepped over the 'red line,'" said Nissan Shlomiansky, head of operations for the council.

Shlomiansky said settlers and their supporters would defy a work-stoppage order, and would not obey army orders to evacuate the site. "If Rabin wants to avoid a confrontation, he shouldn't send in the army," he said.

Meanwhile, council leaders were counting on the continued backing of Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani to help in rallying support from within the Green Line. Kahalani did not attend last night's meeting, but was in contact with council leaders.

Settlers take over abandoned army posts, temporarily

BILL HUTMAN

SETTLERS yesterday temporarily took over abandoned IDF positions in the Bethlehem and Jenin areas, vowing to permanently man them if the army pulls out.

"We are preparing ourselves for the pullout of the IDF, so that our people will be able to fill in where the army has left," said Nissan Shlomiansky, head of operations for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria and Gaza.

He said the two points were chosen because they are along major roads used by Jewish commuters, and that the council is

carrying out patrols to locate other such points along the roads.

The Bethlehem-area position is situated along the Jerusalem-Gush Etzion road, in a undeveloped area just south of the Dehaishe refugee camp. The Jenin site is just outside Yabed, on the road to Afula.

Bethlehem and Jenin were chosen as the first areas for this operation because of reports that they would be turned over to Palestinian Authority in the first stage of redeployment, Shlomiansky said.

Near Dehaishe, settlers raised the Israeli flag over an abandoned house that had been used by the army as a lookout post.

About an hour later, the group left, but vowed to return to prepare the house for the time they would have to move in permanently.

Shlomiansky said they had already carried out minor repairs on the building, which he said is state property.

Efrat Chief Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, who was among the participants, said the area's Jewish resi-

dents had been left with no choice but to prepare to protect themselves, in anticipation of an IDF redeployment.

"If, God forbid, the IDF leaves this area, we must be prepared to secure ourselves along this road," Riskin said. "I consider this as within the framework of a civil guard. We aren't here to hurt anyone, but to protect ourselves."

Residents of Gush Etzion would not rely on joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols for protection, on grounds they have already proved a failure in Gaza, Riskin said.

Woman killed by bus

AN unidentified 70-year-old woman was hit by a bus and killed in Bat Yam yesterday afternoon.

A driver in Jerusalem suffered minor burns when a gas canister he was carrying in his car exploded for unknown reasons. He managed to get out the car seconds before it burst into flames. (Iim)

ARRIVALS

Emman of America Missions Chairman and Honorary National President Melaine Gelbman, and Marlene Gelbman.

With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mother and sister

HELENA (Henny) ZINADER ה"ה

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, December 29 (26 Tevet) at the Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.

The Family

With great sorrow, we announce the untimely death of our beloved

SAM GOLDBERG

The funeral took place in Herzliya on December 28, 1994.

He will be sadly missed by

his wife, Sally
daughters, Brenda and Jackie
son, Ronen
son-in-law, Tzafi
mother-in-law, Bessie
and grandchildren

Iran allegedly ready to fund PLO men opposed to peace

CAIRO (AP) - PLO leaders who refused to join Yasser Arafat's self-rule government have been offered Iranian assistance to help step up opposition to the PLO leader, Palestinian sources said yesterday.

The sources said the Iranian offer was made to Tunis-based PLO leaders through the Iranian embassy there.

The sources said no conditions were attached to the offer, but it was made clear more money

would arrive if the PLO figures stepped up opposition to Arafat.

Early this month, a report by the US Congressional Research Service accused Iran of funding Hamas to sabotage the Mideast peace process.

The report said the assistance came through the Iranian Embassy in Jordan. It was denied by Hamas officials in Amman. However, some estimates say Hamas receives millions of dollars in aid from Iran and other Gulf states.

Some of the PLO leaders in Tunis refused Iran's offer, while others promised to study the matter, the Palestinian sources said.

PLO leaders have accused Arafat of cutting funds for about 100 employees of the PLO, which still has its headquarters in Tunis.

The move is apparently aimed at forcing rebellious leaders to join the Palestinian Authority.

Canadian court: Kazakhstan couple wasn't persecuted

OTTAWA (AP) - A family of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who sought refugee status in Canada by claiming they were persecuted as non-Jews in Israel, have been turned down by the Federal Court.

Mikhail Frid, his wife Tatyana, and their daughter Alice had earlier been rejected by a refugee panel. The Federal Court upheld that decision.

The Frids moved to Israel from Kazakhstan in February 1992. Frid was a Jewish father; his wife is not Jewish. They stayed only 13 months before coming to Canada. Frid said he had been denied employment and that his family had been harassed.

But the court found no evidence of state complicity in the family's problems.

Fire Commission staffers will petition court over funding

DAVID RUDGE

SENIOR staff of the Fire and Rescue Service Commission intend to seek an injunction from the High Court of Justice to prevent the body being dismantled due to lack of funds.

The move follows staff claims that the Interior Ministry is cutting off funds, even though no government decision has been taken to close down the commission, as required by law.

Commission spokesman Natan Ronen, said the staff is also calling on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in his capacity as acting interior minister, to intervene in the matter.

The firemen's union has welcomed the dismantling of the body, saying it wasted money and imposed restrictions on regional fire brigades that prevented the

purchase of new equipment and employment of additional staff at chronically undermanned stations.

Ronen, however, maintained that the commission has tried to make the service more efficient.

He noted that the commission was set up as a first stage towards establishing a national fire and rescue authority, that would include the ambulance service, in accordance with a government decision in September 1992.

The Interior Ministry announced that it would not finance the operations of the commission next year, because it has become a financially wasteful exercise, especially since no concrete steps have been taken to establish a national fire and rescue authority.

Moslems only today in Cave of Machpela

JON IMMANUEL

MOSLEMS will today be allowed exclusive access to the Machpela Cave in Hebron to mark the Day of Mohammed's Ascension to Jerusalem from Mecca.

The army will permit 900 worshippers to enter the building, instead of the normal 450.

Jews and Moslems are each allowed 10 days annually on which they have exclusive access to the entire building that tops the cave. On regular days, each group is restricted to specified halls in the building.

These access regulations have been in effect since the cave was reopened last month, nearly nine months after the massacre of 29 Moslem worshippers there.

In Khan Yunis yesterday, some 3,000 Hamas supporters attended a rally to commemorate "the martyrdom" of Eymen Radi, the Gaza traffic policeman who blew himself up trying to destroy a busload of Israeli soldiers near the Jerusalem Central Bus Station on Sunday.

The rally was attended by Dr. Mahmoud Zahar and other senior members of Hamas's political wing, who said more martyrs would follow Radi's example.

Zahar also condemned the Palestinian Police's attempt to confiscate weapons belonging to Hamas.

"The attempt to gather weapons is a red line no one can cross," Zahar said. "We demand that the Palestinian Authority refrain from raising tension in Gaza by collecting weapons."

Meanwhile, shots were fired at the rally despite a Palestinian Police ban on the public display of weapons.

Rabin rejects Christian churches' call for international guarantees for Jerusalem

HAIM SHAPIRO

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday firmly rejected a call by the heads of the Christian churches in Jerusalem for a special status for the holy city, guaranteed by the international community.

Rabin, who also serves as minister for religious affairs, was speaking at President Ezer Weizman's annual New Year's reception for the leaders of the Christian communities at Beit Hanassi. He was reacting to a memorandum on Jerusalem from the heads of the churches which, though never published, was widely circulated among Christian circles.

The memorandum, which says that "Jerusalem is too precious to be dependent solely on municipal or national political authorities, whoever they may be," has been considered by many Israeli officials to be a challenge to Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Until now, there had been no official Israeli reaction to the

memorandum, although Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert described it as a "strange combination of prejudices and distorted perceptions."

"Jerusalem shall remain a united city under Israeli rule," Rabin said.

He added that the principle of freedom of access to the holy places did not necessitate a special political status for the city. As far as the Christian churches were concerned, they are faring far better since 1967 than before, Rabin said.

Although he did not refer directly to the memorandum, Rabin acknowledged the uncertainty generated by the peace process had caused concern on the part of some Christians. He assured those present that the situation of the churches would be considered when the issue of Je-

rusalem was raised, as the last item in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Weizman also referred to the memorandum, albeit more obliquely, when he stressed that Israel is committed to freedom of worship and free access to the holy sites of all religious groups.

In his reply on behalf of the churches, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I, the senior bishop in Jerusalem, also referred to the memorandum, but denied that it was politically motivated.

Diodoros stressed the historic rights of the Christian churches, even though the Christian communities are small.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, however, was far more militant in his remarks, decrying the closure now in effect, which restricts entrance of Arab residents of the territories to the capital. He rejected such restrictions for any reason, including security considerations.

"All of us want Jerusalem to remain one and to have free access to everyone who wants to come to Jerusalem. What we are suffering now is that Jerusalem is closed. We do not want it closed for any reason," he said.

ISRAEL POLICE

National Headquarters
Investigation Division
Missing Persons Bureau

The Israel Police requests the assistance of the public, in its search for a missing person, Martha Rittmayer, who left her home in Anatot on an excursion to Wadi Kelt on December 19, 1994, since when her whereabouts are unknown.



Description:
Age: 44
Height: 169 cm.
Build: thin
Hair: smooth, chestnut
Eyes: brown
She was wearing:
a brown skirt
a beige blouse
She speaks:
Hebrew, English and Dutch
Anyone knowing her whereabouts is asked to phone 02-957020, 02-956571, 02-309344, or any police station.

Beirut bomb suspects 'admit' Mossad links on Lebanese TV

DAVID RUDGE

LEBANON yesterday officially accused Israel of being behind last week's Beirut car bombing, in which a leading Hizbullah official and three other people were killed.

Three suspects arrested by Syrian and Lebanese security operatives appeared on Lebanese Television last night and publicly confessed to their involvement and alleged links to the Mossad.

Israel last week denied all con-

nection to the bombing.

The three suspects, two men and a woman, were reported to have been part of a cell trained by Israeli agents to assassinate Hizbullah official Fuad Mughniyeh, brother of Imad Mughniyeh, who allegedly masterminded the kidnapping of several western hostages in the 1980s.

According to the report, the assassination team was set up af-

ter attempts by members of the cell to gather information about the missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon.

The woman suspect was reported to be the wife of cell member Ahmed Hallak, who was allegedly recruited by the Mossad in Cyprus in July 1993, and who had reportedly fled to the security zone after the bomb attack. According to the reports, she was

arrested while trying to leave Lebanon for Cyprus.

One of the men arrested was said to be a Palestinian and the other a Lebanese who originated in Hadatha in the south, but also had a home in Beirut's southern suburbs, where the blast occurred.

Originally, according to the reports, the task of the cell had been to kidnap Mughniyeh, to try and gather information about the Israeli MIAs.

مكتبة النجف

Suspect remanded in murder of Haifa lecturer

DAVID RUDGE

THE suspect in the murder of Yeshayahu Demner, a homosexual AIDS carrier, admitted in the Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday that he had killed the Technion lecturer.

Michel Vaknin, 33, from Ashdod, told the court, however, that it was a case of manslaughter and not premeditated murder.

Earlier, before entering the court for the remand hearing, Vaknin told reporters: "I'm not an homosexual, nor a bisexual."

He insisted that the background to the killing was not sexual and that he was innocent of murder.

Vaknin, whom police said had already served several years in prison for various crimes, was arrested in Ashdod on Tuesday by Haifa detectives.

He is also being questioned in connection with the attempted murder of a man in Ashdod, a matter unrelated to the killing of Demner.

Vaknin, who entered the court building yesterday with a black stocking over his face and his hands and legs manacled, was remanded for the 15 days police

had requested.

He maintained in court that the background to the killing, which he claimed was accidental, was related to a swindle. It was not clear if he meant that Demner had tried to cheat him.

Police traced Vaknin through evidence obtained from Demner's Haifa home, where the murder took place. The evidence was not made public.

Vaknin reportedly told police that he did not have AIDS and that there was no sexual motive in the crime whatsoever.

Sgt. Jen Ajuwad, who has been leading murder investigation, said the motive for the murder was still unclear.

Ajuwad is also heading the investigation into the murder of another homosexual in Haifa, clinical psychologist Eliezer Levi, 52, who was found dead at his home last week. Police have ruled out a link between the two cases.

Northern region head Cmdr. Amos Azari and Haifa district head Cmdr. Ya'acov Borovsky praised the diligent work of the detectives in tracking down Vaknin.



Archaeologist Katia Cytryn displays an oil lamp with a menorah motif that dates from the third century C.E. It is one of the artifacts found in Sinai and being returned to Egypt. (Reuters)

Last Sinai artifacts sent to Egypt

HAIM SHAPIRO

SOME 800 cartons of pottery, flints, textiles, jewelry, and coins uncovered by Israeli archaeologists in Sinai were handed over to Egyptian representatives yesterday, marking the culmination of the first such return of artifacts by one country to another.

"We in Egypt appreciate and will continue to appreciate what you did," Prof. Abd Halim Nour Din, director of Egypt's Supreme Archaeological Council, told Amir Droni, director of the Antiquities Authority, at a ceremony at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.

Din headed a team of eight Egyptian archaeologists and secu-

rity officials who came to receive the shipment, the fourth to be handed over. Accompanying them was a group of eight Egyptian journalists, who visited for a week as guests of the Foreign Ministry.

The Antiquities Authority has applied to the Egyptian government to receive on loan 24 Sinai objects, found at Kuntilat Ajrud and Kadesh Barnea, and containing Hebrew inscriptions, but Din held out little hope they could remain here. Egypt, he said, is ready to consider every request for a loan, but has never given

any objects for a long period.

Many of the finds, he said, would be exhibited in one of the five regional museums Egypt is planning in Sinai. One, in Tabat, is already open.

He also said that the Egyptians would consider any Israeli requests to excavate in Sinai or elsewhere, but that, as a matter of policy, the Egyptian authorities insist that any such dig must be a joint one.

Droni said it had taken so long to return the artifacts, which were uncovered between 1968 and 1980, because they had to be sorted, catalogued, and, in many cases, restored.

NII sees to health coverage for Western retirees

JUDY SIEGEL

RETIREES from Western countries who arrived here after pension age will be covered under the national health insurance going into effect on January 1, even if they take no immediate steps. This reassuring news comes from the National Insurance Institute (NII), which has sent out information on how to pay the health tax.

Those who arrived after pension age and have no connection with the NII will have to go to an NII branch to receive a payment booklet.

But Perahia Heiman, NII coordinator for national health insurance, said that doing so is "not urgent," because they will be covered even if they can't make these arrangements immediately.

All salaried workers will have their health tax automatically deducted for the first time from their January salaries. Those who receive NII allotments and pensions will have the tax deducted from this, while the self-employed will have to arrange payment in the same way as they pay their NII fees.

Income from abroad is not

counted as income on which the health tax must be paid, according to the NII.

Pensioners who will be abroad for several months are advised to ask someone to open a file and obtain the payment slips on their behalf.

Immigrant pensioners need bring to the NII branch only a photostat of their identity cards that includes their name, ID number, and birth date. They will be able to pay the tax (NIS 88 for a single; NIS 128 for a couple) in a lump sum, by monthly standing orders at the bank, or twice a year.

Non-working students, who have no NII file, will be required to go to an NII branch and receive a booklet of payment coupons. Next year, this arrangement will be abolished, as universities will add the health tax automatically to their tuition fees. Yeshiva students, who pay the minimal amount, will pay once a year.

National health insurance coverage will be enjoyed by all residents, including temporary residents, but not tourists.

Health funds lack info on supplementary plans

JUDY SIEGEL

NONE of the health funds have received even a draft of the Health Ministry's regulations governing supplementary health insurance plans, even though ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai claimed Tuesday night the document had been sent to all of them.

The funds are angry at the ministry for failing to provide them with information just four days before national health insurance takes effect.

The funds will offer supplementary health services, beyond the basket of health services provided for by national health in-

surance, at extra cost.

No comment was available last night from Ben-Hai.

Meanwhile, Likud MK Ron Nahman yesterday presented a private member's bill that would change the National Health Insurance Law and cancel all supplementary health insurance. He said he feared that the basket of health services would shrink and force the population to pay large sums in supplementary health insurance to cover all the services they have enjoyed up to now.

No comment was available from the ministry spokeswoman on Nahman's effort.

Three shelters exist for 13,000 battered children

RAINE MARCUS

THERE is still no adequate solution to the problem of battered children, and there is a lack of money to deal with the problem, MK Dalila Itzik said yesterday, while touring a shelter for abused children in Tel Aviv.

Some 13,000 cases of child abuse were reported this year, according to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

There are only three shelters in the country which take in battered or sexually abused children. They are operated by the Israel Association for Child Protection (ELI), and supported mainly by donations. An additional shelter is scheduled to open in Beersheba, joining those in Tel Aviv, Kiryat Gat, and Haifa.

The Tel Aviv center houses five children, ages two to 12, who have been removed from their homes by court order, after they were found to be in immediate danger following severe abuse by one or both parents. The children stay at the shelter for three months, after which they are either returned home or sent to

foster parents, said ELI director Ronit Rabinovitch.

An additional 30 children attend ELI's day care center, but Itzik and MK Anat Maor, who also toured the shelter, said that Israel is still behind the times in its attitude and treatment of battered children.

Maor intends to propose a law that will allow police to arrest, without a warrant, a person suspected of violence against a family member.

Both Maor and Itzik said they would push for legislation on battered children and increased budgets and educational programs.

"Mothers are usually the ones who beat kids, while fathers sexually abuse their offspring," said Rabinovitch.

Surprisingly, 35% of calls reporting abuse are made by victims, she added, while 18% are made by the attacker.

"A few years ago authorities refused to recognize the problem of battered children," said Itzik. "Now at least we know that children are beaten."

New life of crime begins at airport

A NEW immigrant who arrived from Moscow yesterday went on a stealing spree before he even got out of the airport.

Among the items he took from the Absorption Ministry offices at Ben-Gurion was a computer. He then went into the Customs offices and stole a wallet from the briefcase of union head Ya'acov Blass. When Blass discovered his wallet was missing, he drove home to Lod, thinking he had left it there. Before he could get back to the airport, police had already informed him the wallet had been found on the suspected thief.

Police said the man, about 40, was too drunk to answer questions, including where he got the \$2,000 found among his belongings. (Iim)

TA offers free parking

TEL AVIV residents will be allowed to park overnight for free in the 25 parking garages run by Neivei Ayalon beginning February 1, under a new plan to ease downtown traffic congestion and the parking shortage. The plan would allow city residents to park between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. at no charge. (Iim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Official census time picked

The time of the 1995 housing and population census has been set at midnight November 4. All questions to which resident will be asked to respond will refer to that time, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. It was also announced that Daniel Ben-Natan, formerly of the Foreign Ministry and the Hebrew University, has been named census director.

Heart surgery campaign for Gazan kids

A special campaign to finance urgent heart operations for 20 Gazan children who lack health insurance will be launched by Kupat Holim Clalit, Soroka Hospital and the Rahat Municipality. A committee of public officials and representatives of voluntary organizations, foundations and local authorities has been set up to pay for such operations in 1995. Each participant will "adopt" a child who needs the surgery. The first two children, who suffer from congenital defects, will have their operations soon, thanks to funds already collected by Soroka and the Rahat Municipality.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

We commend RAV MOSHE ANTELMAN, Ph.D., Chemical Consultant, Weizmann Institute; for resigning from the Association of Professors For Political and Economic Strength in Israel, stating: "You were supported by me for many years from the start because of our strong stands on Jewish identity and National Zionist issues. However, I am now forced to resign since the Association sees fit to commit treason against God, our Brit, our Torah, our Bet HaMikdash, Eretz Yisrael and Zionism by stating 'Our agreement with Jordan was positive' and then having the chutzpa of utilizing the names of certain rabbis as signatories against their will; appearing in HaAkademai HaTzioni, October 1994, pp. 7-8."



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Russians renew bombing of Chechnya

News agencies

GROZNY - RUSSIAN warplanes resumed bombing Grozny and elsewhere in Chechnya yesterday in attacks that defied President Boris Yeltsin's pledge a day earlier to halt aerial bombardments of the capital.

Chechen officials claimed at least 200 people were killed in raids on the capital and many others elsewhere.

"The Russian president's promise to stop bombing turned out to be a mere hypocrisy," Russian Chechnya's deputy foreign minister, said in Moscow. "Immediately after Yeltsin's speech they started especially cruel and brutal raids."

An orphanage in the Chechen capital was destroyed in one raid. The Russians, despite independent confirmation, denied they had bombed Grozny itself.

Russian troops meanwhile advanced on the besieged Chechen capital, seizing a crucial military airfield on the city outskirts.

A reporter in the area said Russian jets bombed Argun, 15 km east of Grozny, and fierce battles erupted around the city for control of a major road leading out of the capital to the east.

Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian government's Security Council, said Moscow's troops would gradually drive fighters loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev out of Grozny but denied the city would be "stormed".

"Grozny will be freed from illegal armed forces, mercenaries and criminals. It will not be stormed, but it will be liberated," he told a news conference.

"The liberation of Grozny will be carried out step by step, district by district. If there is strong resistance, it will take a little more time. But we don't want to spend months."

Heavy fighting was reported on the outskirts of Grozny. The Russian military confirmed it was delivering "artillery, missile and bomb blows" on Chechen positions in the suburbs.



Russian interior ministry commandos use an armored personnel carrier to bring a Christmas tree to a checkpoint some 50 km. west of the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday.

Eyewitnesses said hundreds of armored vehicles were advancing on the capital from three directions, although both Russian and Chechen officials said the advance was halted late yesterday.

Chimayev claimed the Russians also had bombed scores of mountain villages in which there are no militants, killing hundreds of people. There was no way to independently confirm the claims, and both sides have been accused of distorting their casualty counts.

Russian warplanes destroyed an orphanage in downtown Grozny in a dawn raid, but the children were hiding in the basement when the bomb fell and there were no casualties.

AP Television reported. "The children were playing when they started the bombing at dawn," said Nadezhda Medved, the director of Children's Home No. 1. "Thank god none of the kids were outside when it happened," she told APTV.

The attacks were a clear sign that Yeltsin intended to keep using force against Chechnya, which declared independence in 1991.

In his nationwide TV speech Tuesday, Yeltsin said he had ordered a halt to airstrikes "that cause civilian casualties" in Grozny, the Chechen capital.

However, Yeltsin made it clear Russian forces would spare no effort to end "the outrage of gangsterism" in Chechnya.

The new attacks came after Chechnya's rebel government, its forces badly outnumbered, refused to compromise or surrender in response to what turned out to be a temporary bombing halt.

Officials in the separatist region dismissed his speech for failing to meet their main demand: withdrawal.

The ring around Grozny has tightened, Yeltsin said. "The armed units have been blocked. The actions of gangs that offer resistance will still be severely suppressed."

An analyst for a leading Moscow newspaper, Pavel Felgenauer of Segodnya, called the speech "very belligerent" and said it demonstrated Russia's intent to use more firepower to end the crisis.

Chechen fighters have vowed never to surrender, even though they are only several thousand against as many as 40,000 Russian troops who entered the breakaway region Dec. 11.

Yeltsin has faced harsh criticism at home and, to a lesser extent, abroad for a botched military operation that the Chechens say has killed hundreds of civilians.

UN general tries to halt Bihac fighting

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - The UN peacekeeping commander in Bosnia visited the enclave of Bihac yesterday in a bid to halt fighting which threatens the country's latest ceasefire.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose flew to Bihac by helicopter from the Croatian port of Split, in his second attempt to enter the northwestern enclave after previously being blocked by Croatian Serbs surrounding the pocket.

Bosnia's Moslem-led government has said it would break the current ceasefire if its troops continue to come under fire from Serb forces or their allies, rebel Moslem troops loyal to local businessman Filket Abdic.

"General Rose is visiting Bihac pocket in order to assess the situation first hand, where there continues to be some fighting in the north between Serbs from Croatia and forces loyal to Filket Abdic on one hand and Bosnian army troops on the other," said Thant Myint-U, a UN spokesman in Zagreb.

"He travelled there to see what can be done to make Mr Abdic agree to a ceasefire."

Rose visited Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the area and met General Atif Dudakovic, the commander of the government 5th Corps defending the enclave as well as Abdic, UN officials said.

As Rose held talks in Bihac, fighting flared in the north of the enclave around the town of Velika Kladusa, with some 87 shells near the town, Thant said. "There was a slight increase in fighting around Velika Kladusa today."

The UN wanted Croatian Serb troops from the self-declared "Republic of Serb Krajina" (RSK) to withdraw from the enclave and halt military operations supporting Abdic's troops, Thant said.

"Hopefully, the RSK will make good on their repeated promises to cease all their activities in Bihac pocket," he said.

The Bihac fighting has jeopardized the ceasefire, which was signed by the Bosnian government and Bosnian Serb leaders - but not by Croatian Serbs and rebel Moslems, who have gained the upper hand in the enclave.

The ceasefire, brokered by former US president Jimmy Carter, is designed to pave the way for an extensive four-month truce and a resumption of peace talks. It has slowed fighting across the country since it began on Saturday.

Thant said the UN was making progress in talks on the cessation of hostilities, under which peacekeeping troops would be deployed between the two armies.

UN officials expect the Serbs and the Moslem-led government to reach agreement on the four-month truce by or close to the planned deadline of January 1, he said in Zagreb.

"We hope that we will have the cessation of hostilities agreement within the first few days in January," Thant said.

Rose also planned to discuss securing regular supply deliveries for some 1,200 Bangladeshi UN troops who have been virtually cut off from the outside world by a Serb blockade.

Mexican rebels offer to resume peace talks

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS (AP) - For the first time in months, Indian rebels have indicated they are ready to resume peace talks, easing fears of a new outbreak of violence.

The conciliatory letter from the Zapatista National Liberation Army, released yesterday, appeared to ease tensions that have heightened in recent days with increased movement of both rebels and army troops in the southern state of Chiapas.

The Zapatistas are demanding better living conditions and basic rights for Chiapas' impoverished Indians.

The lack of communication from the Zapatistas has frightened many in the government who wondered if the rebels were planning a repeat of their New Year's Day uprising a year ago, which left more than 145 people dead before a cease-fire took effect Jan. 12.

In the letter, dated Dec. 25 but released yesterday by the Roman Catholic church, rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos said the Zapatistas were pleased by the government's acceptance of a church-led commission to mediate new peace talks.

On Christmas Eve, the government announced it had recognized the National Intermediation Commission as mediator between government and rebel representatives. Recognition of the commission known by its Spanish acronym CONAI had been a key rebel demand.

The commission is headed by

Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz, who has been fasting for peace since Dec. 19. Ruiz had urged the rebels to return to the negotiating table.

As mediator, the church commission "can provide a political solution of peace with justice and dignity to the conflict," said the letter.

The letter was one of the first positive signs in months. Mexican newspapers yesterday had bold headlines on the rebels' willingness to restart peace talks.

Peace talks faltered in June when the guerrillas rejected a proposed accord by former president Carlos Salinas de Gortari to provide jobs, housing and health care to the poor Indians the rebels claimed to defend.

Mexico's new President Ernesto Zedillo had no immediate comment yesterday, but the military responded overnight by announcing that troops would pull back from two areas closest to rebel territory as a conciliatory gesture.

The prospects of a renewed rebellion helped fuel the biggest devaluation in years of the Mexican peso, which has lost more than a third of its value against the dollar since last week.

The peso had declined nearly 38 percent since the guerrillas moved into new positions in a show of force on Dec. 19, including declines on Monday and Tuesday. But in early trading yesterday, the currency strengthened from 5.6 pesos to the dollar to 5.25.

French-Algerian relations at new low following murders

PARIS (AP) - France's tense relations with Algeria worsened yesterday amid outrage over the murder of four priests, and horror over an attempt by Islamic radicals to explode a hijacked Air France plane over Paris.

And although France averted a catastrophe by storming the plane in Marseille Monday and killing all four hijackers, Algerian officials and media assailed the French handling of the drama.

The pro-government Algerian newspaper *L'Autorité* questioned whether Paris "manipulated" the affair to get the hijackers to fly to France where they could

be killed. It noted Interior Minister Abderahmane Meziane-Cherif's claim that the Air France pilot blocked a plan to release everyone but six members of the crew while the plane was still in Algeria.

It also said it was suspicious that the terrorists were all in the cockpit at the moment of the assault, and why they didn't go ahead and blow up the plane they had rigged with explosives.

The independent *El Watan* called it "abnormal, even indecent, that the French seize on the incident to turn with derision to the Algerian authorities."

France suspended air and sea

links with Algeria Tuesday, demanding that Algeria improve its poor security that allowed the gunmen, disguised as maintenance personnel, to get on the plane as passengers were boarding.

A merchant marine union in Marseille sought yesterday in a letter to Transport Minister Bernard Bosson to have north Africa declared a danger zone "as it was during the Gulf War."

More than 11,000 people have been killed in the past three years in clashes between Algeria's military-installed government - tacitly supported by France - and Islamic fundamentalists.

Tuesday's murder of four Catholic priests including three Frenchmen in Algeria provoked outrage in France, where the killings were widely seen as retaliation for the assault that left the hijackers dead less than 24 hours earlier.

Witnesses quoted in yesterday's newspapers said they saw six men with Kalashnikov rifles and walkie-talkies drive up to the priest's residence and attempt to kidnap Frenchman Jean Chevillard, 69.

When he resisted they shot and killed him along with two other French priests, aged 75 and 36, and a 70-year-old Belgian priest in Tizi-Ouzou, about 100 km east of Algiers.

All were members of the Order of White Fathers. The gunmen escaped and there was no claim of responsibility, but Moslem militants sympathetic to the hijackers were suspected.

French officials continued questioning ex-hostages, conducting ballistic examinations inside the plane and taking fingerprints to try and identify the three accomplices of hijack leader Abdallah Yahia.

Yahia was a member of the extremist Armed Islamic Group, the most violent of the factions seeking to install Islamic rule and waging a guerrilla war against Algeria's Moslem-backed movement.

The group has claimed credit for slaying most of the 75 foreigners ambushed and killed in Algeria in the last 15 months.

French officials are keen to establish any links Yahia and his team may have had with other organizations in planning what French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua called a "suicide mission" to explode the plane over Paris.

The commando raid, shown on live television as dusk fell Monday, ended a 54-hour drama during which three hostages were executed and their bodies thrown from the plane in Algiers.

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said Tuesday that authorities feared the hijackers had planned a "suicide operation over Paris." He said 20 sticks of dynamite discovered on the plane "would have caused the disintegration of the plane in mid-flight."

New US agriculture secretary named

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton yesterday named Dan Glickman, a veteran Democratic congressman defeated for re-election last month, to succeed Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, who resigned under an ethical cloud.

Glickman's "knowledge, experience and understanding of the needs of the American farmer make him exactly the right person to become secretary of Agriculture when we write the farm bill in 1995," Clinton said.

Glickman referred at an outdoor ceremony in the White House Rose Garden to the challenge of the five-year farm bill that he must help craft. "Agriculture is not and should not be immune to change," he said.

Glickman, 50, lost the House of Representatives seat he held for 18 years to a Republican state senator from his district in the central state of Kansas. Glickman had sought the cabinet post two years ago when Espy was chosen.

Bangladesh opposition quits en masse

DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh's opposition legislators resigned from parliament last night in the latest and most dramatic move in their campaign to force the government to quit.

They handed their resignation letters to Speaker Sheikh Razzak

Ali at 9.15 p.m., parliament officials said.

They entered the Speaker's room led by main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and walked out immediately after submitting the resignation letters.

"We have done it," Hasina told reporters.

Earlier she told an opposition rally: "We have tried our best but without any results. The government has not only remained intransigent but showed utter disrespect to a popular plea for a clean vote."

Hundreds of riot police and paramilitary troops with water cannon guarded parliament, stopping vehicles and pedestrians, witnesses said.

Hasina told the rally: "We are going to execute our resignation plan. We will now launch a more fierce campaign to bring down the government of (Prime Minister) Begum Khaleda Zia and force a dissolution of parliament."

She repeated demands that President Abdur Rahman Biswas must dissolve parliament immediately, appoint a caretaker prime minister and a board of advisers - all of whom must be neutral - and not contest future elections.

"The ice hasn't melted. We have been forced into an expected turbulent phase of politics," a leader of the opposition Jatiya Party said.

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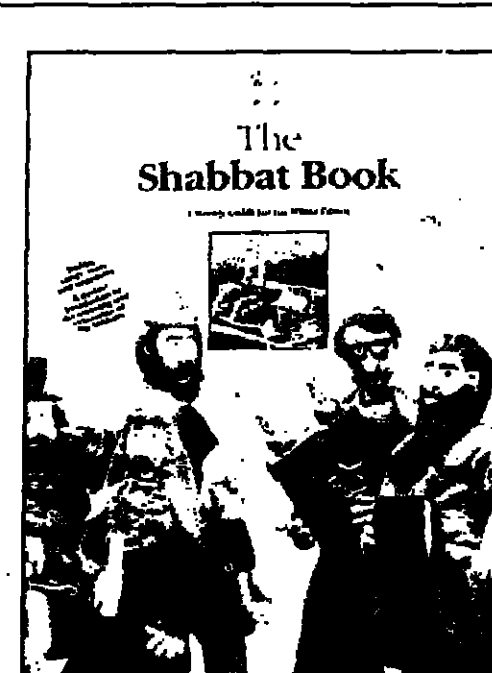
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מכתמים היסטוריים

UN general tries to halt Bihac fighting

lexican rebels resume peace

Beauty is not only skin deep

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

EPHEMERAL by their very nature, most fragrances lose not only their scent, but also their market durability.

One which has stood the test of time is Nina Ricci's L'Air du Temps whose delicate, romantic perfume is so closely identified with the Nina Ricci label, that Deci-Dela, the company's newest fragrance which went on sale in Paris in October, will have difficulty competing, despite its novelty.

Much more audacious than L'Air du Temps, Deci-Dela, which is now available here, has a rich, fruity aroma, which is not surprising considering its fruit and floral composition.

Deci-Dela's attractive, color-coded bottles indicate the strength of the fragrance. Eau de Toilette comes in a raspberry-hued 50-ml bottle and sells for NIS 189. Concentrated Eau de Toilette, bottled in a mandarin flacon, is priced at NIS 205 for 50 ml.

The perfume extract in a cherry-colored flask is not yet on sale here, but the French boutique price for 7.5 ml is FF 400.

AMONG THE new fragrance imports for men is Faconnable, which is not nearly as macho as its main competitors, whose pronounced pine aromas assail the nostrils with a strength that definitely makes a statement.

French-made Faconnable is much more subtle. Included in its formula are mint, melon, mandarin, orange blossom and wood essences. Both the After-Shave and Eau de Toilette come in 50-ml and 100-ml units. After-Shave is priced at NIS 109 and NIS 139, while Eau de Toilette can be purchased for NIS 148 and NIS 198. The series also includes spray deodorant which retails for NIS 95 for 150 ml.

THOSE OF us who come from abroad may discover that the cosmetics, to which we have been faithful for years, do not produce the same results in Israel as they did in our countries of origin. Differences in water and climate



Faconnable's formula - for men - includes mint, melon, and orange blossom.

are the main attributable factors to this change.

Local hair stylist Asher Galai, in conjunction with the Rishon LeZion-based Sara Luzon Laboratories, has come out with a new line of Asher Innovations geared to local conditions. The complete series includes Rich Liquid Soap, Shampoos for Colored Dry Hair and Normal Hair, Hair Reviver Conditioner, Hair Reviver Mask, Hair Sculpting Silicon Cream, Silicon Gel, Hair Reviver Nourishing Cream, As-serve Extra Hold Spray and Silicon Liquid Repair with HV Filter.

So far, I've tried only the dry hair shampoo and conditioner, and have found them satisfactory. Someone told me once that changing shampoo and conditioner brands from time to time is good for the hair. I don't know how true this is, but in my own case, after experimenting a few times with the Asher shampoo and conditioner, I went back to my usual Revlon, and found that the results were better than before. The 500-ml Asher shampoo and conditioner cost NIS 28 and NIS 27 respectively.

FOR BUDGET-conscious women who save a lot of money by coloring their hair at home, L'Oreal of Paris has added a new dimension to its color techniques. Previously known for its Recital and Imedia color ranges, L'Oreal recently introduced tone on tone Casting which can either highlight natural color or completely change it. Free of ammonia, the shampoo-in colorant blends out grey hair, and will last through 18 regular shampoos. There are 14 shades, from which to choose. The Casting Applicator set which includes: tone-on-tone colorant, shampoo and conditioner is priced at NIS 39.90.

Good-bye chalk: Hopscotch goes plastic

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISEL

MOST everybody, but particularly girls, played hopscotch in childhood. It was played on the sidewalk by drawing squares with chalk, tossing a stone, and hopping in a certain pattern.

Games are less spontaneous these days. A retired American businessman living in Karmiel has designed a PVC hopscotch mat, for outdoor or indoor play. Instead of a stone to throw, there is a block of wood with Formica on top.

Sam Silver, who is 70 and still hopping, is not just marketing the product, but organizing hopscotch tournaments for local youngsters. He is getting community centers and shopping malls interested in hosting the hopscotch competitions.

In this country, hopscotch is called "klass," and Silver's product is called 1st Klass.

He is in partnership with Asher Ben-Nun, whose Karmiel factory Tigris Plast produces the 1x1.5-meter PVC hopscotch mats, which are yellow with squares numbered from one to six. The kit comes with its own set of rules, in Hebrew and English.

Silver is selling the basic kit by direct mail at an introductory price of NIS 55 including postage, from 16/2 Habroshim St., Karmiel 20100, Tel. (04) 988-4592, fax (04) 988-6384.

He also has a more decorative four-color version with illustrations and names of six cities (Haifa, Acre, Tiberias, Safed, Nazareth and Karmiel, in Hebrew and English), for NIS 75.

He says he got the idea for the hopscotch mat from seeing children play the game on the streets of Karmiel. He hopes to stage annual national competitions.

READING USED to be another popular pastime of children. Parents who would like to see more of it in their homes might consider a series of mysteries for children aged 10 to 14.

Some of the Goosebumps books by R.L. Stine, which are runaway bestsellers in the US, have been translated into Hebrew and published by the Ma'ariv Book Guild. (Sifriyat Ma'ariv). In Hebrew, the series is called, *Tzamarim*. The first two books, released this fall, were *Hayalda Shezta'aka* ("Mifletzet")



(The Girl Who Cried Monster) and *Mish'at Alulot Lehitgashem* ("Be Careful, What You Wish For...").

Two more have just come out in Hebrew: *Haze'ev Mihabitot* ("The Werewolf of Fever Swamp") and *Hayalda Shelo Yada'ah* ("You Can't Scare Me"). Another two are on the way.

Each local edition runs about 100 pages and is published in hardcover, with a price of NIS 24. In the US, most Goosebumps books are sold as paperbacks and cost about half that.

The Goosebumps series, published abroad by Scholastic, has more than two dozen titles. Nobody ever dies in Goosebumps books, author Stine noted in a recent interview. His earlier thriller series for slightly older readers, *Fear Street* (published by Pocket Books), has characters who are about 15 years old.

IF YOU liked *Goosebumps* as a child, you'll love *Poppycock*.

This is an adult version of candied popcorn, mixed with nuts. It

is sweet, crunchy, highly caloric and possibly addictive. Once you start munching, it's hard to stop.

Made in Lincoln, Nebraska, and imported by Brackman of Tel Aviv, this snack food comes in several versions. The Original Poppycock is a mixture of popcorn, almonds and pecans, in a butter-corn coating, made with white sugar, white sugar and brown sugar. There are three sizes - 226 grams in a metal box, for about NIS 14.95; 340 grams at NIS 19.95, also in a box; and 37 grams in a bag for NIS 3.40.

Two variations are available, also with popcorn as the basic ingredient: Walnut Cashew Poppycock, in a maple-syrup crunch, and Hawaiian Poppycock, with macadamia nuts and toasted coconut.

They were introduced at the American Food Festival at Super-Sol/Hypercol, but are already available at some other stores as well. All three versions have the O-U dairy kosher endorsement.

As for calories, the less you



Fun for children and adults (counterclockwise from far left): From a longtime hopscotch player in Karmiel comes a portable hopscotch mat; Goosebumps mystery books for children have been translated into Hebrew; Poppycock makes a sweet (and possibly addictive) popcorn snack.

think about them, the better.

Each 100 grams of Original Poppycock has 560 calories, about the same as milk chocolate.

PREPARING Pillsbury's frozen Toaster Strudel is child's play. You just pop a piece in a pop-up toaster or toaster oven. Then to decorate it, you squeeze the white frosting from a tiny packet.

The local frozen-pastry firm, Madanat (a Sunfrost subsidiary), is importing the Toaster Strudel from the US in four flavors - apple, blueberry, cherry and strawberry. Each box contains six slices, at NIS 9.95. The pastry is well sealed around the edges, so the filling doesn't leak out during toasting.

The nutritional table printed in Hebrew is incorrect. The figures should refer to a single slice (54 grams), rather than per 100 grams, as stated. I scraped off the Hebrew label to read the English underneath, after suspecting that the calorie count was unrealistically low. Each 54-gram slice contains 180 calories and seven

grams of fat. One hundred grams, therefore, contain almost 360 calories, and not as stated on the Hebrew table.

Madanat admits the error and promises to correct it promptly. The product carries the O-U dairy kosher symbol.

In case your children plan to toast these strudel slices for themselves, read them the two warnings on the label: "Pastry will be very hot" when it pops up, and "Do not use metal objects to remove pastry from toaster."

As for taste, some members of my family liked it; others thought the filling was too skimpy or too artificial tasting. My conclusion is that it's OK for a convenience food, but not for entertaining. It has debuted at Super-Sol and Hypercol thus far.

MOST CHILDREN would probably prefer a slice of bread with the new chocolate-flavored spreads under the brand name Shuki from Vered Hagaili. One is an ordinary smooth spread; the other has pieces of Telma's crispy-rice breakfast cereal in it. Both smooth and crunchy Shuki spreads cost NIS 6.90 a container. The Telma version weighs 500 grams, while the rice version weighs only 450 grams. They are available at chain stores.

Huskies take a back seat as northern lights shine on saloon

MOTORING
JOEL GORDIN

VOLVO 960, SALOON or STATION-WAGON. Engine: 2,473 cc. Horsepower: 170 at 5,700 rpm. Torque: 23 at 4,400 rpm. Gears: automatic. Price: NIS 173,000 (including radiotape and alarm).

THE tranquility of the town of Rovaniemi, Lapland, was rudely disturbed by the roar of Volvo engines as motor-journalists tested the Volvo 960 under the stiffest winter conditions.

Three years ago the 960 series replaced the 850 as the flagships of the Swedish company's range. For 1995, the conservative exterior has been made more stylish and the suspension has been revamped.

Volvo had good reason to try to prove the new 960's prowess in

the Arctic Circle. Four-wheel drive "fun" and luxury vehicles are rocketing in popularity throughout the world and more and more drivers on both sides of the Atlantic are discovering the advantages of a 4WD in the snow, ice and slush. Volvo does not make a 4WD. The Swedes prefer rear-wheel drive - and the new thinking in automotive circles is that front-wheel drive is the next best to 4WD for slippery roads.

The tests in the far north do have a bearing on local conditions, even though we seldom see deep snow. In most cases, for "snow" it's possible to read "wet" - and Israel has no shortage of wet roads this winter.

I drove three versions of the 960 - the 3-liter automatic, the 2.5-liter automatic (the only model currently available in Israel) and the 2.5-liter manual - on roads most Israelis would regard as too dangerous to travel in a

sled or snowmobile. I also tested the cars at Volvo's Arctic Circle test track.

On a winter road, it is essential for the driver to master the principle of using the steering, rather than the brakes, to keep control on difficult bends. And it is important to drive in the high gears to avoid skidding or loss of traction.

Some cars, such as the revamped 960, help the driver by supplying safe road holding in bad conditions. The 960 has many features which compensate for the lack of front-wheel drive.

The rack-and-pinion steering is light and responsive, making it easier for the driver to know what the front wheels are doing. Road contact or "feedback" is maintained in every situation.

The state-of-the-art front-wheel suspension has a bracing effect during braking, and counteracts the tendency of braking to turn the car if there is a difference



The makers of the Volvo 960 Saloon went to the ends of the earth (the Arctic Circle, to be precise) to test their product.

in friction between the front wheels.

An automatic differential lock

gives support for starting on slippery surfaces. The apparatus senses the difference in rotational

speed between the wheels and locks the differential, distributing the driving force toward the road surface so that it is not lost in wheel spin.

Once a speed of 40 kph is reached, the lock is automatically disengaged so there is no risk of the locking function affecting the front wheels at high speeds.

Automatic shift models have a winter mode. When this is selected, the car starts in third gear to avoid wheel spin on slippery roads and remains in third and fourth gear while driving. This is where Volvo's engine flexibility comes into its own. You can get just as much power when accelerating at 90 kph in fourth, as you can in second or third.

The automatic gearbox also features an engine brake function when driving downhill. It automatically prevents the car from increasing speed if the driver removes his/her foot from the accelerator. If you must brake, the

ABS braking system prevents wheel lock on slippery surfaces. The automobile is equipped with super-powerful halogen lights - drive in the Scandinavian winter and you'll know why.

The 960 passed the test with flying colors, rear-wheel drive and all.

It's an "executive class" automobile for conservative executives; powerful rather than "sporty," solid rather than "beautiful," comfortable rather than trendy, and full of the latest electronic gadgets. Passive safety features include two front air bags and the renowned "side impact protection system."

Israeli cabinet ministers are driven about in Volvo 850s. It is still not certain whether these will be replaced by the 960 or if the government will bow to the "American lobby" and purchase Chevies or Pontacs.

If the 960 is turned down, it will be the ministers' loss.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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A close escape

THE horrific revelation that the terrorists who hijacked the French Airbus last weekend had planted explosives on it and planned to plunge it into the heart of Paris is a serious warning to the world of the level to which Islamic fanaticism has sunk.

The hijack outrage was immediately followed by the brutal murder of four Catholic priests, three Frenchmen and a Belgian, in Algeria. The killing of the innocent was in revenge for the killing of the terrorists - a pattern with which Israelis are grimly familiar. The West has been slow to wake up to the fast-growing menace of Islamic terrorism. Worse, Western public opinion has frequently ignored warnings from Israeli leaders about this danger and all too often has given terrorism against Jewish targets the patina of "armed struggle."

No one should be in doubt any longer about the path Islamic fundamentalism is taking. Nor should there be any doubt that the day is getting nearer when terrorists like those on the Airbus will get their hands on some weapon of mass destruction - whether nuclear, chemical or biological. The hatred and loathing Moslem fanatics have for all things Western and non-Islamic has parallels only in medieval history. The hallmark of the attitude is a total absence of any moral limits, as evidenced by the suicide volunteers determined to take as many people as possible with them.

Algeria's Islamic Armed Group (GIA) has

entered the lexicon of terrorism alongside Hizbullah, Hamas, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards. It may be fruitless to castigate the beleaguered Algerian government, which is fighting for its life against the surging fundamentalist revolution, but the amazing response of officials and media there to the brilliant French rescue of the airline hostages deserves utter condemnation.

They vilified the French handling of the crisis, ignoring the catastrophe it averted. The government newspaper *L'Authentique* said Paris is "manipulated" the affair to get the hijackers to fly to France, where they could be killed. Interior Minister Abdelhakme Mebazaa-Cherif could find no one to blame but the unfortunate pilot held hostage with his plane and passengers - the minister accused him of "blocking" a compromise deal with the terrorists in Algeria.

Considering that the terrorists simply walked on board this juicy French target while passengers were boarding on the tarmac should engender some humility and shame in Algerian officials, rather than such arrogance and apparent grieving for the murderers, who would have bombed Paris but for the superb action of the French special forces.

The French deserve nothing but praise and admiration for the successful rescue. One must only hope that the hijacking saga will make them recognize the dimension of the threat posed by Islamic fanaticism.

The fight against road carnage

FIFTEEN-year-old Maxim Steinberg of Ashdod, a recent immigrant from the CIS, was a judo champion. He had won the Maccabi title, the southern championship and the Israeli youth championship in the sport, and was an athlete with a brilliant future and Olympic potential.

On Saturday night, while crossing the street near his home, he was hit by a car. He died in the hospital.

The statistics are well known. The number of traffic accident victims exceeds that of all of Israel's wars. Every year, hundreds die, and thousands are maimed, crippled and injured. In 1993 alone, 487 people, most of them young, were killed in traffic accidents. Only last week, 21 people were killed on the roads.

The toll of traffic accidents is perhaps the most tragic of all, for many of the deaths, perhaps more than half, can be prevented. According to Dr. Elisha Richter, who heads the Unit for Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine at the Hebrew University, low-cost measures can bring the toll down to 200 a year by the year 2000. Yet there is an incomprehensible, fatalistic callousness about this scourge. In a country where every killing by terrorists is a cause for national mourning, the far more numerous road deaths are virtually ignored, and few measures are taken to reduce their number.

The Metuna organization, a voluntary group guided by scientists and supported by family members of traffic victims, has been trying to persuade the Transport Ministry's Road Safety Administration to introduce such measures. One project, known as Matbea, which uses the

Israeli-developed Marom detection system, is ready for operation in Petah Tikva, Ra'anana, Kfar Sava and Netanya, encompassing a population of close to 500,000.

Based on the irrefutable fact that the primary killer on the road is speed, the project intends to "catch" speeding drivers before they precipitate an accident. But instead of chasing them on the highway - a costly and relatively ineffective procedure - the system assumes that those who speed on the roads will also exceed the speed limit as they enter urban areas. The inordinately large number of pedestrians (especially children and the elderly) killed by speeding drivers seems to confirm this assumption.

It is at such strategic junctures that speeding drivers can be both nabbed and instantly educated with the aid of a special infrared camera, a computer and a policeman. They are taped, stopped by the policeman, instantaneously shown the tape of their driving, lectured about the hazards of speeding, and warned. Their names are entered into a computer, and if caught again, they are fined. Frequent transgressions carry stiffer penalties.

Each Marom detector can produce over 900 detections per day. In places where they have been tested, they have had palpable impact on driver behavior, particularly on young drivers.

The project can be put into effect immediately. The overall costs for the six-month program are NIS 1,300,000, most of which has been pledged by the four municipalities, the Road Safety Administration and insurance companies. All it needs now is a green light from the Transport Ministry. There is no time to waste.



BLEB 694

Misplaced hero worship

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

thanks to Cindy for her dedication to duty.

BLEEDING-HEART leftists and professional anti-nuclear-bomb demonstrators in Britain and elsewhere complain how shameful it is that Vanunu the "idealist" is still kept in strict isolation. Free him now, they demand.

In this country, leftists are also protesting about Vanunu's motives being "misunderstood." He didn't do it for the money, they explain. He did it for humanity. "And now that we have peace, there is no need to keep Vanunu in jail any more. He should be given his due as a true humanitarian, a national hero."

Vanunu is a traitor.
And he's still dangerous - whatever his apologists say

Climbing onto the "Free Vanunu" bandwagon, Dedi Zucker, the mother of all left-wingers, threatened over the weekend to petition the High Court in his capacity as chairman of the Knesset Law Committee if he isn't allowed to talk to the prisoner in his cell. The intelligence community reluctantly agreed to last night's meeting.

He can no longer be a danger to Israel, say Vanunu's apologists.

That's not the view taken by security men. Nor is it the view of Peres, who originally demanded that Vanunu be jailed at all costs.

We were told by a top-ranking security source: "Every Arab state from Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Iran onwards" has moved heaven and earth to dig out Israel's nuclear secrets. "We know that Dimona was a top target in every single war they have ever waged against us."

These Arab states can never be quite sure what they can believe or not believe among the hundreds of thousands of words written over the years about Israel's so-called nuclear capacity.

"All our enemies' efforts to create unconventional armories, including gas, chemical and biological weapons, and even to acquire nuclear know-how has one

purpose only - to counteract Israel's perceived atomic weapons potential," our source continued.

That is why there was so much excitement when Vanunu offered to sell his inside knowledge to a dozen papers, including *The Sunday Times*. To that newspaper's disappointment, their informant vanished before they could extract all they believed Vanunu knew. That's why they offered him a great deal of money for future revelations.

"Do you realize how dangerous Vanunu still is?" asked the source, rhetorically. "If he starts talking openly today, it will be a bonanza for every Arab enemy of Israel. They will seize on every word he says to justify their enormous expenditure of billions on conventional, unconventional and atomic weapons know-how."

Vanunu the "idealist" will quite cheerfully go on betraying every secret, genuine or imagined, for payment by saying anything and everything. "He is holding a finger up at the head of every Israeli man, woman and child," our source concluded.

Releasing Vanunu from prison will add a powerful filip to President Mubarak's persistent campaign to get Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Shorn of hypocrisy, this Egyptian campaign has only one purpose: To cripple Israel's sole remaining self-defense mechanism, aimed at deterring would-be aggressors from trying to wipe out the Jewish state in a surprise attack.

It has become the "in" thing in smart, so-called intellectual circles, both here and elsewhere, to call traitors heroes, and vice versa.

In England, an attempt was made to demonstrate that Winston Churchill was a war criminal. Israel TV tried to convert Rudolf Kastner, Eichmann's would-be partner in Budapest, into another national King David-type hero. Peres has forgotten the idealistic days when he worked for Ben-Gurion to such an extent that he even joined the King David-detractors.

Vanunu is the latest macho figure, and Zucker has latched onto him. With a bit of luck, Vanunu may even be in line for next year's Nobel Peace Prize. It will make a great Israeli trick.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Could it happen?

NETTY GROSS

Predictions of the major headlines of 1995:

Rabin Suggests Merging Cabinet with Third Grade from Mevasseret
"That way we can play musical chairs every day"

Peres Speech in Peru Proposing Wall Through Asia Linking Jerusalem's Western Wall to Great Wall of China

"Why not?" says Israeli foreign minister, envisioning a New Middle East

Clinton - Reports That Conversion to Judaism May Not Be Necessary
"I was a Yemenite child"

Jewish Milliner from Brooklyn Wants to Open Men's Headgear Store in Jericho

"Arafat's scarf looks terrible," explained Phyllis Stein. How can Suha let him out of the house?

Netanyahu Announces Candidacy for White House at Texas Republican Dentists' Convention
Bibi explains: "I thought I was in Beersheba"

Dinitz Offers New Defense in Corruption Trial
"Syms suits never fit right. I returned them"

Rabin to Antarctica, Urges Eskimo Salmon Fishers to Secure Kayaks and Guard Huskies:
"Islamic fundamentalism threatens all of us"

Deri Offers Stunning New Defense in Corruption Trial
"I may be the Messiah"

Shas Leaders Attack Aloni over Anti-Messiah Remark
Aloni: "I've said so repeatedly: If the Messiah turns out to be a crook, throw him in jail"

Bank Leumi Exec Accepted Applicant's Pet as Loan Guarantor
Bank's justification: "This pedigree poodle had a reference from his kennel and gets an income from dog shows"

Other Yemenite Children Come Forward, including Queen Noor, Boris Yeltsin and Margaret Tutwiler

After Wooling Tadiran and Elcint, Japanese Electronics Giant Sony Opts for Snack Kiosk on Corner of Bograshov and Nardau in Tel Aviv
Says thrilled owner about undisclosed sum for the meter-wide shop: "It's a lot of Bamba"

Arafat's Wife Gives Birth to Twin Daughters
Lea Rabin causes political crisis by sending matching suits made by settlers. "I had no idea. I bought them in Tel Aviv"

Mordechai Vanunu Left Frozen Sperm in London Clinic
Actress Susanah York: "I'll have the baby"

Uzi Meshulam Accepts Clinton, Noor and Tutwiler as Possible Lost Yemenite Children
But says of Yeltsin: "Don't kid me. He's too old"

Deri Found Innocent on All Counts; Benish to appeal 'Insane Decision'
Judges announce jointly: "We believe he is the Messiah"

Donald Trump Makes Novel Golan Peace Proposal
"I'll buy the Golan Heights and lease it back to the Israelis and the Syrians. Everyone gets a five-year sublet with no extensions, no sub-tenants, no flags, no guns, no Chinese menus. That's the deal"

Followers Escort Jubilant Deri from Courthouse
Deri aide to CNN: "His Volvo turned into a white donkey"

The writer is a freelancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"RELIGIOUSLY CORRECT"

Sir, - Shimon Peres's remarks in the Knesset about King David were quite innocuous and hardly noteworthy. What really aroused the fury of religious MKs was his unforgivable sin of daring to suggest that Judaism is a pluralistic culture, that the haredim have no monopoly over the Bible, and that it is quite legitimate for non-Orthodox and secular Jews to hold and express their own traditions. To our Orthodox and haredi MKs, that is anathema - hence the ridiculous uproar.

Meanwhile, Mr. Peres's bravado has evaporated and he is indulging in huge portions of gnat kosher humble pie. He has apologized for saying what he thinks and has assured the haredi rabbis that they are the sole representatives of the Jewish heritage and its sole legitimate guardians. If the matter is debated in the Knesset, he will put on a kippa and grovel a good deal more to prove how "religiously correct" he really is. A pity - because his original stand in the Knesset had the virtue of stating an important truth and it is sad to see that truth hounded out of the Knesset by the tactics of people whose disdain for the country's democratic institutions becomes clearer every day. The influence of the haredim in this country has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished.

NACHUM APPLETON

Ra'anana.

CHANGE TACTICS

Sir, - In the past few weeks, there occurred two incidents where IDF patrol leaders were killed while leading the charge against terrorists. I recall reading that the terrorists fired on IDF troops, then waited for the predictable charge.

It is apparent that the terrorists are staying and waiting for the IDF to charge. They are not running away. A frontal charge against those who stay and fight has led and will lead to casualties. What was tactically valid for past wars might not be valid for South Lebanon today, where terrorists invite the charge as they invite their own death.

"After me," the ethic of the IDF for four decades, created a tradition and served the nation well. But tactics must be reexamined in the light of changing circumstances. To be predictable in war is the supreme folly.

Jerusalem.

A. GRUDER

TAKE THE BUS!

Sir, - Messrs. Rabin and Peres ought to start taking the bus. Egged would enjoy the publicity and perhaps these two Nobel Prize clowns might change their attitude about "sacrifices for peace."

Sit your body in a bus and keep wondering which Arab is the one with the TNT strapped to his body. Mr. Prime Minister, and we will hear just how brave you and your sidekick really are.

May God help us!

SCOTTY GOLDBERG

Jerusalem.

THE STUDY OF ARABIC

Sir, - In his article opposing the compulsory study of Arabic in the Israeli school system (December 4), Gustavo D. Perednik declares: "I do not want my children to study Arabic." He says that English should be the only compulsory language, and that Yiddish, Russian, French and Japanese (!) should all take precedence over Arabic.

As Amos Oz noted in an excellent series of films by Amos Gitai shown recently on cable TV, "some people seem to think that we are either an extension of the shield, of Western Europe, or of a Boston campus. The truth is that we are a Middle Eastern/Mediterranean country."

As such, I tell my son that Israelis should know at least three languages: the national language, Hebrew; the regional language, Arabic; and the international language, the current *lingua franca* (pardon the pun), English. Everything else, as they say in Americanese, is just gravy.

I would like to remind the author that Israel has two official languages - Hebrew and Arabic. And though Jews are a majority within the State of Israel, we are a minority within the Middle East. One of the keys to the difficult peace process that we are embarking on is convincing our neighbors that we are not an "alien European implant," but an integral part of the region. Making at least an effort to learn the dominant regional language is a gesture of goodwill which should accompany "solid political and security agreements."

HILLEL SCHENKER

Tel Aviv.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Cod works in mysterious ways: Dutchman Cor Sloop grins as he displays his false teeth. He had lost them in the North Sea when he was seasick on a pleasure trip; three months later, they were found - in the belly of a cod reeled in by a Dutch fisherman, who got a lot more bite than he expected when the 8.5 kg fish bubbled on his line. Hugo Slamet (right) organized the fishing trip during which the dentures were found, and found the mouth that fits the teeth by alerting a radio station. Sloop heard a broadcast and went to the radio station to try the dentures on. They were a perfect fit.

(Reuters)

مكتبة الأصيل

Long-distance courting can tangle your lines

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I've been a widow for 27 years. My children are all married and living abroad.

Recently, I met a widower from California, three days before he was to return to the U.S. and we hit it off. He said he would call me upon arriving home.

But after 10 days, I called him. We decided to alternate phoning one another every week. I kept my end of the bargain, but he did not.

When I told him I'd be coming to California in a few months to visit my children, he seemed pleased, but I'm still not sure what he's thinking. What must I do to keep this friendship?

Wooing Widow in Woe
Tel Aviv

Dear WW in W,
Don't go to California especially to see him. But if you're there anyway, look him up. Maybe then you'll be able to judge better how he feels about you.

You should examine your own feelings as well. Your one meeting was hardly enough for you to be planning a future with him. And maybe he's just wary of keeping in touch with someone so far away. If a serious relationship develops, one of you will have to pack up and move. Proximity makes courting a lot easier.

Dear Ruthie,
My father has always been a domineering man. I'm afraid to stand up to him even now, though I have three grown children. My problem is that my youngest son is in his final year of business school, and my father has decided that his grandson will join the family business as soon as he gets his degree. But my son doesn't want this kind of career. I feel terrible because I am too cowardly to tell my father to stop pressuring my son. What can I do?

Poltronish Parent
Somewhere in Israel

Dear PP,
The most important thing is to tell your son how you feel.

Whether this knowledge will help him stand up for himself, only time will tell. But you owe it to him to let him know you're on his side - even if it means revealing your weaknesses.

As for your own problem with your father: If you really wish to "grow out" of your childhood, you may need professional help. If you have not succeeded in shifting the balance of power by now, you probably won't be able to do so without assistance.

Dear Ruthie,
My nine-year-old son spends his allowance every week on the latest fad - "Poogim." He spends it as soon as he gets it, to add to his already huge collection of these little cardboard circles.

Then he takes them to school, and often loses many of them while playing with his friends.

I feel it is a total waste of money. Furthermore, he has begun complaining that he has no money for other things. Can I start to limit his purchases, even though I made a previous decision to let him make his own choices?

Indecisive Dad
Jerusalem

Dear Indecisive,
That depends on what your motive was in allocating a set allowance. If you wanted him to learn how to budget his money, then let him spend it on Poogim to his heart's content - but remain firm about not giving him extra money for movies, say. If other things are important enough to him, he will start taking them into account when payday comes around.

If, however, giving him pocket money was a way of budgeting yourself in relation to his entertainment expenses, then you can sit down with him and renegotiate the terms of your contract.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Autobiography of a rat

BOOKS
DICK RORABACK

RAT, by Andrzej Zaniewski, translated from Polish by Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarborough. Arcade. 176 pp. \$19.95.

THEY are loathsome, misanthropic things, ranking down there with roaches, asps, journalists, patricians, matricians, fratricidians, even homicidians, they live in sewers, spread disease, glory in slime, revel in raunch. And damn it, their teeth keep growing.

But I suppose they can't help it. They are, after all, among God's creatures.

Suppose you were born a rat? Andrzej Zaniewski supposes just that.

Noting that rats "have found their most congenial living conditions among people," that come the revolution they may well inherit the earth, Zaniewski has done nothing less than write a rat's autobiography.

With rare empathy, he cites Hercules, Odysseus, Niobe, Antigone in pointing out that "many tragedies, dramas, adventures

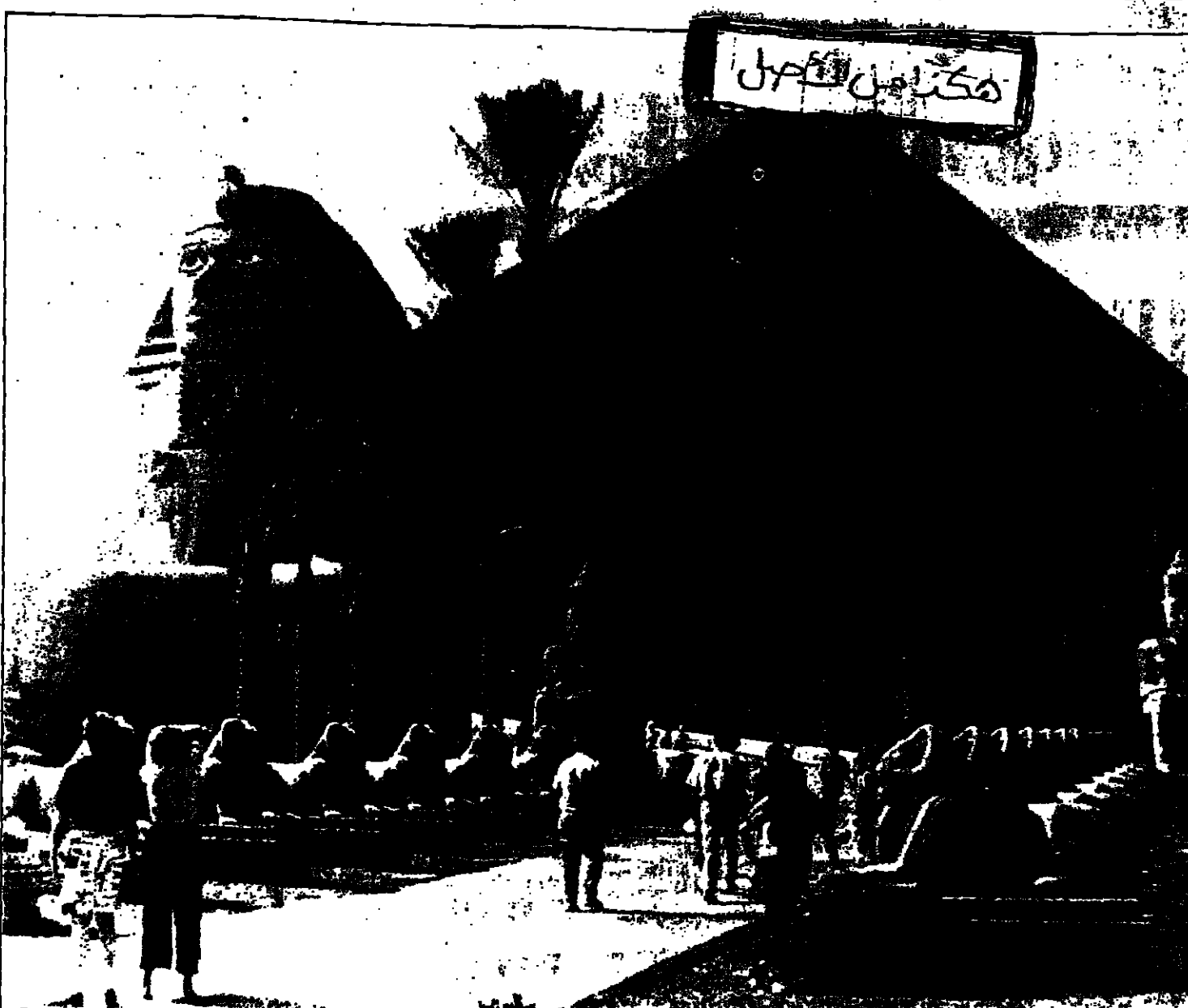
take place around rats' burrows and nests."

Then he gets right into it. It's a study at once repulsive and fascinating, a princely effort asking us to sympathize with a hairy little brute that copulates with its own mother, chomps on its own offspring, eats the brains out of live swine, savors "the warmth and taste of blood that hasn't set yet."

Yes, but. What if you learned, as an infant, to fear light itself? There, where one can see, everything is against you, is out to kill you - men, cats, snakes, even a brother slightly larger. Everywhere are traps, poisons; the slightest noise makes you retch in fright.

Little wonder that you "learn to fear, learn to escape. Terror will increase your strength. Later you will learn to hate and kill."

It is a gruesome tale, not without high drama. Our hero is born in a bakery cellar, ships out on a freighter, gets caught in a war, is seduced by a flute, mates, kills, cats, fights ... dies. Rats! (Los Angeles Times)



You can get to see the 'pyramids' of Las Vegas for free if you play your cards right.

(Universal Pictorial Press)

Beating Las Vegas at its own game

TRAVEL
BARBARA SHEA

EVERY gambler knows that casinos dangle loads of complimentary gifts to lure players. But now a professional gambler named Max Rubin has turned the tables. He's got a system players can use to take in the "comps."

Rubin isn't interested in chintzy giveaways like free drinks and parking, either. He goes for the free meals, rooms, shows, flights, limos and invitations to special events a casual player might assume are reserved for high rollers.

But Rubin says anyone with a modest bankroll can get them, too.

He shares his strategies - about 300 pages worth - in an entertaining new book called *Comp City, a Guide to Free Las Vegas Vacations* (Huntington Press, Las Vegas). Despite the focus on Glitter Gulch, his tips undoubtedly will be useful to semi-regular visitors to Atlantic City and other gambling centers, as well.

To be a "comp wizard," Rubin maintains, you don't necessarily

even have to be skilled at playing the games.

"The trick," he says, is simply "to make it appear that you're betting more, playing longer and playing worse than you really are." When you've learned this, he says, "you'll be able to develop your own unique, original and artistic modus operandi for beating the casinos at their own game by getting a dollar's worth of comps for every dime you lose."

He's so certain that he also claims *Comp City* is "the only gambling book ever written that will pay for itself with your first two hours of play after only a single reading. Guaranteed."

Ambitious promises - and that's only in the first five pages of the introduction. Rubin starts out with a bit of history on methods used in Vegas to determine the worth of a customer relative to comps a casino

might offer. Comp ratings are simply based on a formula that predicts the casino's potential to win your money, he says. If you do better than expected, or don't bet as much as expected, you're a double winner because you get the cash and the comps.

To reel in the most freebies, Rubin says, it does help if you can play a perfect game of blackjack - or even video poker. He gives an intensive lesson in "basic strategy" and then suggests practicing with computer games.

Rubin advises playing with cash instead of credit for several reasons - among them, so you can appear to have more money than you really do. But, he notes, getting credit from a casino is far easier than getting it from a bank. Casinos, he says, want to know only three things: "You got money? Where is it? You ever stuffed a casino?"

Some of his observations on various personality types among pit bosses are less than politically correct. But his tricks for manipulating the denizens of this world where the odds are overwhelmingly stacked against you seem eminently fair. And much of his advice is in the realm of good old-fashioned common sense.

The book's 10 chapters are liberally sprinkled with charts to illustrate points.

There's also a glossary of gambling terms and an appendix with such features as a Scouting Checklist (so "you'll sound like you know what you're talking about") and a Bankroll Index to help players determine how much cash they need to pursue various comps.

Will all the advice pan out in practice? I'll never know. But the book was great fun to read, even for an infrequent gambler. And a couple of blackjack players I know seemed mighty interested in what it had to say. (Newsday)

Time to book seats for Rio's Carnival

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

bay and Bangkok. Tel Aviv to Delhi flight time is nine hours.

ALITALIA HAS initiated a twice-weekly direct flight between Tel Aviv and Milan, in addition to the 10 weekly flights between Tel Aviv and Rome.

The airline has also introduced a program to deal with the fog which frequently affects airports in the Milan area in winter, to inform passengers of flight changes and provide transport to other airports if necessary.

One of the options used is a first-class train between Milan and Rome, with free restaurant facilities.

AVIS HAS arranged to reserve rental cars for Israelis arriving in Indonesia, although for the time being the payment must be made

in Indonesia in US dollars. The price of a Suzuki Jeep in Bali is \$270, including insurance and unlimited mileage.

A NEW air terminal for international travelers has opened at Brussels Airport, which the operators say is the largest and most advanced in Europe. The old terminal is being used for passengers on inter-European Union flights.

The terminal has two shopping malls, one of which is duty-free. The arriving and departing passengers are completely separated, which is said to improve security. The new and existing terminals have an annual capacity of 15 million passengers a year, while by the year 2000 they are to have an annual capacity of 21 million.

KOL MAKOM Ve'atar ("Israel - Sites and Places"), the compendium that alphabetically lists and describes (in Hebrew) every site in the country, has been issued in a newly revised and expanded form.

The new edition, issued by the Defense Ministry and Carta, includes maps of the entire country and enlarged maps of virtually every community. It sells for NIS 65.

THE PARADISE Kinneret vacation village is offering a January rate of NIS 120 per couple for bed and breakfast and NIS 200 for half board, with an extra charge of NIS 30 for a child in the parents' room. On weekends, there is a two-night minimum.

A NEW restaurant, Tzipora, has opened on the Jerusalem-Tiberias highway at the Moshav Argaman junction. The restaurant is open 22 hours a day, closing only from 5 to 7 a.m. (The Baltimore Sun)

Moon, stars shine out of these teeth

LIFE-STYLE

ROBERT HILSON, Jr.

FEW words were spoken when Jerome Broady and Peggy Sneed fell for each other. Words weren't needed; he flashed a smile, and she melted. She grinned, and he knew she was the right woman.

When Broady smiled, his two front teeth gleamed with gold, one with a star. Only one of Sneed's teeth sparkled, but its glow caught his eye.

"I knew that she was what I was about when I saw it. We had something in common right off," Broady said. "She had a nice face, but what set it off was that gold. That just made me say 'Yeah, she's all right with me.'"

Sneed found a deeper meaning in Broady's golden smile. "It showed me he was a man of substance, someone [who] wants a lot of things and plans to go out and get it," Sneed said. "The gold said a lot." The Baltimore, Maryland, couple, both 25, enjoy golden moments together.

But not all teeth that sparkle are golden. What often appears to be a gold tooth is actually a gold-colored tooth cover - called a sleeve or cap - made of brass or copper.

The gold sleeves are primarily for cosmetic reasons. One Baltimore dentist likened them to cheap jewelry that "makes your skin turn green if you leave it on too long."

The American Dental Association warned that because the existing tooth must be filed and altered for the gold sleeve to fit, the cap will ruin the tooth and possibly cause gum disease later.

But that possibility didn't stop Carl Coffman from getting "a gold" with a star cut out.

"It's something I wanted for a long time, and not because my friends have them," said Coffman, 18. "It makes me want to smile more because it's fancy like jewelry, but it's more permanent."

Several of his friends have gold caps, Coffman said, including one who has a combination of gold- and silver-capped teeth filling his mouth. The sleeves range in price from \$25 to \$100 and are available in many inexpensive jewelry and clothing stores.

"I don't know anybody who has real gold in their mouth, just the caps," Coffman said.

The mouths of celebrities such as rapper Flavor Flav, boxer Mike Tyson and professional basketball player Larry Johnson may be adorned with real gold, but it is unlikely, dentists said.

"Gold is the best material to use for dental work, but the gold teeth you see on most people is not gold at all," said Dr. Richard H. Price, a practicing dentist who also works in the consumer affairs division of the American Dental Association.

"It's just something that will eventually ruin their teeth and mouths," he said.

The gold sleeves come in a variety of eye-catching models, including some emblazoned with dollar signs, champagne glasses, initials, suit symbols for cards, stars and moons (all phases).

Men and women of various ages said they find the gold "sleeves" at local stores. When installed by a dentist, the sleeve is cemented to the tooth. Non-professionals have tried to wedge them between teeth.

Robert Fredrickson, who has a gold sleeve with a heart on one of his front teeth, now doesn't want it taken off because his tooth is brown and looks decayed.

"It's become embarrassing, and I don't have the money for a denture. So the gold's going to be on for a long while."

(The Baltimore Sun)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1994

GDP jumps 6.8%

Per capita income rises to \$13,730 in '94

THE economy roared ahead this year, as the Gross Domestic Product jumped 6.8 percent to push the annual per capita income to \$13,730, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

In its year-end estimates for 1994, the bureau favorably compared Israel's economic performance as measured by GDP growth and lower unemployment to that of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

The comparison also highlighted the country's inflation and trade deficit problems.

The nation's economy expanded faster than all 24 OECD countries. Norway came second with a 4.3% GDP increase, followed by Ireland's 4.1% and Australia's 4%. Israel also led OECD countries with a 4.3% rise in GDP per capita.

Unemployment, which fell from 10% last year to 7.6% this year, ranked Israel ninth among OECD countries with the lowest jobless rates.

By contrast, Israel had the highest trade deficit and second highest inflation rate in the group. The deficit jumped from 2.4% of GDP to 4.1%. Similarly, consumer inflation, which totaled 12.3% this year, was second only to Turkey's 106% annual inflation rate.

Israel's per capita income last year of \$12,375 was lower than Japan's \$33,900, the US's \$24,300, France's \$21,700, and England's \$15,900, but was higher than Spain's \$12,200.

JOSE ROSENFELD

Most of the economy's expansion occurred in the second half of last year. During the first half of the year the GDP grew 5%, expanding at a more moderate 4% in the second half of the year.

The business product, which measures the GDP, excluding public and housing services, jumped 7.9% from 3.5%. The expansion reflects 8% industrial production growth and a 7.2% increase in the building sector.

Trade and services surged 9%, while agriculture shrank 4%. Although business leaders have been complaining about eroding profitability, private sector labor productivity actually increased this year by 0.2%, after dropping in the previous two years. Only when the public sector is included, productivity remained unchanged.

Gross hourly wages fell 1.7% in the private sector, following a similar drop last year. By contrast, as a result of the government's generous salary agreements, public sector wages shot up 8.7%, pushing up overall gross hourly wages 1.1%.

Private consumption jumped 9.3%, a record 6.7% increase per capita. Per capita consumption shot up 10% during the first half of the year, while remaining flat in the second half.

Durable goods purchases, including furniture, household equipment and cars, increased 10% per capita, after shrinking by 2% last year. Car purchases expanded by 7% per capita, after

contracting by 16% in 1993. Refrigerator, laundry machine, video recorder purchases rose 9% per capita after a 7% rise last year. Furniture purchases rose a sharp 15%.

Consumption of non-durables rose 6.3% per capita.

Israelis' spending abroad shot up 14% this year on top of last year's 25% increase. Although a record number of Israelis traveled abroad this year, the expenditure per traveler dropped, as more of them vacationed closer to home.

Fixed capital formation rose 12.9% after increasing a marginal 0.2% last year. Capital investments in machines, equipment, vehicles, non-residential buildings and infrastructure shot up 17.3% following a 16.7% growth last year.

The sharp increase in investments and consumption reflected the private sector's optimism, as both businesses and individuals expected their income to grow.

Exports expanded by 10.6% as they did last year, while imports rose by 10.4% compared with 14.5% last year.

The trade deficit totaled \$8.3 billion compared to \$6b. last year. The jump represents the large rise in investment goods and production input imports, as well as the continued expansion of consumer imports.

The tax burden as a percentage of the GDP grew to 42% from 40% last year.

As consumption outstripped growth, savings fell to 20.7% of the national income from 24%.

THE economy continued expanding from July to November, although growth moderated somewhat over the past two months, the Bank of Israel's research division reported yesterday.

The central bank's "S", or state of the economy indicator released yesterday, reflected the slowdown, registering a 0.6% drop last month.

According to the Bank of Israel, the index has been fluctuating since August without following a clear trend, a sure sign that the economy has reached a plateau.

Retail sales, a good consumption indicator, rose 1.8% in November, following a consistent drop during the previous three months.

Imports increased 1.4%, bringing them close to May's record levels.

The number of jobs in the business sector expanded 1% in October and industrial production rose 0.6%.

During the past two months, economic activity stabilized following the third quarter's moderation.

The Gross Domestic Product

JOSE ROSENFELD

expanded 2% in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter. Both private and public consumption dropped slightly, while capital investments fell more sharply.

Exports shrank significantly and only infrastructure and construction investments shot up. Imports also diminished, after rising continuously in real terms since the middle of last year.

Despite the central bank's moves to tighten the money supply in the past five months, it only began having an impact in October and November.

Short-term credit, whose interest rates climbed steeply, continued growing. Last month unlinked shekel credit stopped growing, while index and foreign currency-linked credit expanded instead.

During the past five months, there were no unusual events in the foreign currency market, as the exchange rate stood close to the midpoint of the "crawling peg."

However, at the beginning of the month, foreign currency sell orders pushed the currency basket slightly lower.

Chambers of Commerce predicts bittersweet '95

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Israel Chambers of Commerce (ICC) predicts a bittersweet economic year ahead.

The new year will bring a reduction in Gross Domestic Product, price rises, a slowdown in consumption and an 11 percent rise in inflation, according to the ICC's forecast.

ICC economists predict GDP growth will fall to 5% from 7%, due to a drop in investment in construction.

The rise in business productivity is also expected to decline - to 6% from 7.7%.

The ICC is expecting a relative decline in the price of housing and fruits and vegetables, high interest rates and continued market exposure, as well as more frequent devaluations and wage increases.

Individual consumption and investments are expected to rise by between 5% and 6%, down from between 10% and 12% in 1994, due largely to the realization of profits on capital investments and continued high interest rates.

The ICC also predicts a devaluation in the foreign currency basket of between 6% and 7%. Decreased consumption and devaluations will affect imports, which are expected to go down. Exports are expected to rise more slowly than last year, mainly because of difficulty in penetrating new markets.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Investors plan to gain control of 35% of Carmel Bank: A group of investors headed by Eli Kind, a major shareholder in Carmel Mortgage and Investment Bank, plans to gain control of 35 percent of the bank. Kind said he is close to organizing the consortium, which will include businessman Jack Bars.

Earlier this week, businessman Haim Katzman and Rafael Reich, two of the four major shareholders in Carmel, sold 24% of the bank's shares for 13% of Maritime Bank's shares. The TASE will have to give special approval for the transaction to go ahead since Katzman's and Reich's shares in Carmel Bank are restricted and therefore cannot be traded.

Zim workers walk off job after negotiations break down: Some 1,000 Zim workers walked off the job yesterday morning after negotiations broke down between management and the workers' council. The walkout was taken without prior sanction from the Haifa Histadrut, which condemned the action as irresponsible in a letter sent to the workers council.

Shlomo Shabtai, head of the Zim workers' council, said the council had agreed to a 35-man reduction in the workforce as part of efficiency measures requested by management. But "in return, we did not receive any wage increase," he said.

Zim spokeswoman Rivka Benvenisti said management "saw this as serious," describing the move as "a wildcat strike, done without Histadrut permission while negotiations are being conducted between the two sides."

El Al workers sign wage pact: El Al employees are to receive an 18 percent pay increase, according to an agreement signed between the company and the workers. The raise is being spread over a two-year period, beginning retroactively from the beginning of last year, El Al spokesman Nachman Kleinman said. As part of the deal, the workers agreed to concessions on vacation days and sick days.

Raid advertising buys Srigamish: Veteran knitwear manufacturer Srigamish has been purchased by Rapid advertising owners Haim Halban and Itzik Ben Ezra.

Aladdin Knowledge Systems buys US firm for \$500,000: Software protection developers Aladdin Knowledge Systems has announced it will acquire Micro Security Systems of Salt Lake City for \$500,000. MSS, which is traded on NASDAQ, designs, manufactures and markets a line of products which protect software from unauthorized duplication.

Yair Hamburger named Harel Hamishmar managing director: Harel Hamishmar Investments managing director Yair Hamburger has been appointed chairman as well. Hamburger, who is also chairman of Sahar Insurance Company, will now become deputy chairman, while Gidon Hamburger will take over as chairman.

Israel Igra sets up new investment and consulting firm: Israel Igra, formerly head of foreign exchange at the Bank of Israel and most recently managing director of Clal Investment House, has set up Igra Investment and Consulting. The company will specialize in foreign currency and investment overseas.

Zur Shamir, Israel Corp. talks over Direct Insurance collapse: Zur Shamir's negotiations with the Israel Corporation to join as an investor in Direct Insurance broke down this week, after three months of talks. Insurance sources said the negotiations collapsed following the two companies' failure to reach an agreement on ownership and management of Direct Insurance. The source said Zur Shamir and Israel Corp. agreed to a share division of 51% and 49% respectively. But Zur Shamir objected to Israel Corp.'s demand to have an equal share in Direct Insurance's voting rights. Zur Shamir invested NIS 30 million in Direct Insurance, which was founded in November. In the near future, Zur Shamir plans to invest an additional NIS 10m. by issuing of a capital note.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.12.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.825	6.125	6.275
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.750	5.375	5.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.250	4.500	4.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.750
Yen (¥10 million)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (28.12.94)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.240	3.350	Buy	3.365
German mark	3.018	3.084	Buy	3.098
Pound sterling	1.914	1.949	Buy	1.977
French franc	4.957	4.744	Buy	4.705
Japanese yen (¥100)	0.537	0.515	Buy	0.522
Dutch florin	3.008	3.048	Buy	3.071
Swiss franc	1.708	1.729	Buy	1.747
Swedish krona	0.405	0.402	Buy	0.405
Norwegian krone	0.433	0.445	Buy	0.445
Canadian dollar	0.478	0.497	Buy	0.497
Australian dollar	0.630	0.630	Buy	0.630
Finland mark	2.148	2.171	Buy	2.184
South African rand	2.341	2.311	Buy	2.305
Belgian franc (¥1)	0.030	0.032	Buy	0.032
Austrian schilling (¥1)	2.717	2.735	Buy	2.735
Italian lira (¥100)	1.851	1.869	Buy	1.870
Israeli pound	—	—	Buy	4.212
Israeli new sheqel	—	—	Buy	0.977
Spanish peseta (¥100)	2.252	2.254	Buy	2.258

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Tender will choose two firms to compete with Bezek for supplying overseas services

JUDY SIEGEL

TWO companies, rather than one, will be chosen by a Communications Ministry tender to compete with a new Bezek subsidiary in the supply of overseas dialing services.

The ministry said yesterday it would publish the tender no later than June.

The ministry had originally intended to choose only one private company. But, after carefully studying data from Bezek and its would-be competitors, the ministry decided the number of suppliers should be expanded to three.

The ministry said Bezek would remain the leading telecommunications company, and after the two other firms get their licenses, no others will receive one at least until the year 2001, the ministry said.

The three companies will have to meet certain criteria. They must be owned by an Israeli corporation in which Israeli citizens and residents control at least 26 percent of shares.

In addition, an international telecommunications company may hold between 25 and 49 percent of the shares. The foreign company must have provided at least 350 million minutes of overseas calls in another country in 1993 and be linked to at least 11 million direct phone lines.

Meanwhile, Bezek's new subsidiary for overseas phone services will be headed by Moshe Haba, outgoing Bezek chairman.

His appointment was announced yesterday by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, after she received the approval of



Moshe Haba will head Bezek's new subsidiary. (IPPA)

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. Haba will be replaced at Bezek by Gurion Meltzer on Sunday.

Tender for Modi'in sites out today

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Housing Ministry and Israel Lands Administration will publish a tender today for the construction of 4,816 housing units in Modi'in.

On some of the 46 sites in the tender, the ministry is insisting that contractors build 65 square meter apartments.

The ministry said contractors can submit bids for 10 sites, but no builder would be allowed to win more than one site.

However, contractors who have already won contracts for construction of apartments in Modi'in can take part in the tender.

The tender will close within two months and construction start shortly afterwards.

Precedent-setting ruling made on transfer of checks

THE Supreme Court yesterday ruled that if a check is marked "for the payee only" (lamutav biyad), the check is not transferable, even if the word "lifkudat" (to the order of), which is printed on the check, was not crossed out.

The court thus overruled two lower courts, which had ruled that in the event of conflicting instructions on the check, one can favor the instruction that makes the check negotiable.

The case involved Moshe Tziliat, who gave a check to Ezra Shem-Tov and marked it "for the payee only." Shem-Tov deposited the check with the First International Bank as security.

At some point later, Tziliat canceled the check, with Shem-Tov's agreement, only to learn that the bank had redeemed it. The bank claimed that the words "to the payee only" were not effective, since Tziliat had not erased the "to the order of" on the check.

Tziliat sued the bank in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, but the court ruled in favor of the bank. Tziliat appealed to the Tel Aviv District Court, which rejected the appeal. He then appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously in favor of Tziliat.

Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar explained that the addition of the words "to the payee only" - whether by hand, in print, or by a stamp - is considered a special instruction, added to deliberately change the standard status of the check. (Iim)

Elco appoints Amnon Dick as Shekem managing director

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

LESS than a week after the government completed the sale of Shekem, Elco has appointed a new managing director.

Jafora Tabori managing director Amnon Dick will take over from Miron Ne'eman, who was appointed general manager nine months ago. Ne'eman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Sources close to the company

expect other senior management changes over the next few months.

Elco owner Gershon Zelkind was appointed chairman of the board at Shekem's shareholders meeting last week.

Dick is expected to join Shekem within a few weeks after completion of his tenure at Ja-

fora. Sources close to the company said Shekem hopes to take advantage of his broad marketing background to improve the department store's reputation.

Before joining Jafora, Dick spent five years as Elite's marketing vice president. He has also been Coca-Cola's distribution and sales manager and general

manager of Ma'adanot, the manufacture of pastries and salads.

"I was just appointed, so it's too early to say what changes I plan to make," said Dick.

Shekem sources said Elco plans to separate the company's supermarket division from its clothing and other divisions as part of plans to revive the ailing company.

מכאן הכלכלה

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0400	+0.03%
Sterling	NIS 4.7006	+0.16%
Mark	NIS 1.9275	+0.04%

NYSE STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	3030.00	-0.32
DJ 30	1433.37	-0.22
DJ 100	1287.72	-0.22
NYSE Index	2875.10	-0.08
NYSE Comp	2875.10	-0.08
NYSE Comp	2875.10	-0.08
NYSE Comp	2875.10	-0.08

Israeli stocks in NY

Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00

NYSE/AMEX

Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00

NYSE/AMEX

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NYSE/AMEX

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NYSE/AMEX

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NYSE/AMEX

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Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00

TEL AVIV STOCKS

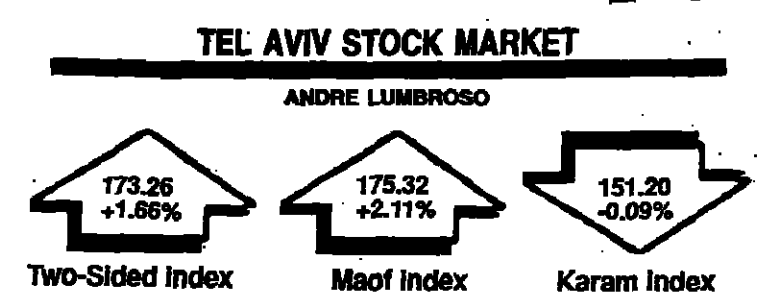
Multi-sided trading

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00

Two-sided trading

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00

Two-Sided Index rebounds sharply



THE market made another one of those abrupt changes in direction yesterday that it does so well. By the end of the first hour of trading, it was posting a 0.4 percent decline on the Two-Sided Index and a 0.6 drop on the Maof. By the end of trading, the Two-Sided was up 1.7% and the Maof 2.1% higher.

Turnover was larger than in the past few days at NIS 132 million, and there was a NIS 37m. increase in turnover on the Karam market.

The mutual funds reported continued redemptions of certificates from investors who decided they would rather be outside the stock market on January 1, when the new tax comes onto the books.

It will always be time, in their view, to reenter the market later, when it becomes clear in which direction the wind is blowing.

There were reports that the money managers were reporting similar despondency by their customers, and this affected their ability to play the market.

These were the forces which affected the market at the beginning of the trading on the Two-Sided market. Prices fell slowly, although it was clear there was no enthusiasm in what traders and the general public were doing.

Turnovers during that period were shallow, and in many cases non-existent. It was not unusual to see shares left untraded, with either no reaction on the part of traders or sometimes such a gap in prices between selling and buying price that no trade was taking place.

Despite the relative improvement in turnovers, there were still nine securities which registered no trades and 11 securities which registered one or two trades only.

For the most heavily traded securities on the market, this was

not much.

Among the securities which were not traded, one found Granit, Israel Corporation 5, T-Bone Veal, Tefahot, Magen, Mishor Hahof and Malat.

Those which posted only one or two trades included Malibu, Hanal, Koor Note, Mashov, Polgat, Pericase and Frutaron.

It was a clear illustration of the lack of interest in the market.

There were some indications that the Maof arbitrageurs were at work again. For a change, they were on the rising side.

They bought Maof mutual funds aggressively after having bought Maof Call options. Most of these purchases seemed to come from one of the large banks and a leading private broker.

The apparent change in strategy (buying calls and buying mutual funds instead of the usual opposite) had to do with the expectation that the end of year effect would probably work in the favor of the arbitrageurs.

Since there is a traditional expectation that prices rise toward the end of the year, and in that respect, the results of the first hour of trading were a disappointment, it made sense to push prices up rather than down.

Koor was the most traded security on the market with a turnover of NIS 6.1m, and its price rose 2.8%. Israel Chemicals rose 1.1% on a turnover of NIS 4.4m; Osem was up 3%, Bezek rose 2.3%, and Clal Israel was up 2.5%. The rises were uniform and across the board.

With today being the last trading day of the month and the year, traders look back at 1994 with no regrets.

Contrary to similar situations in previous years, there is no inkling of where the market is going. The problem is that no one has the faintest idea of how the market will react to the tax.

FTSE closes higher

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Equities finished a quiet session mostly higher but well off their best levels as a weak Wall Street pared earlier gains by half. The FTSE 100 closed 12.4 points higher at 3,095.8.

FRANKFURT - German share prices pared most of minor gains by the close of the session as DAX futures prices slipped to losses, dealers said. The DAX index ended up 2.86 points at 2,109.01. In post-bourse trading it stood at 2,097.34, down 13.43 points.

PARIS - French shares ended the day markedly lower in thin volume as prices were depressed by foreign sales. Traders said most institutions were unwilling to enter the market as books had been squared and closed for the year. The CAC-40 index was down 28.15, or 1.44 percent, at 1,927.83.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended lower after another quiet and eventless day, dealers said. Stocks consolidated after Tuesday's gains. The broad SPI index closed 9.61 points lower.

TOKYO - Stocks ended lower on dealer position adjustment sales as investors spent the day hugging the sidelines amid a lack of fresh market-moving news. "The market has been very strong recently but it needed a bit of a correction," said a trader at Baring Securities. The key Nikkei average ended off 45.83 points at 19,665.53.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks ended lower after a very quiet day, brokers said. The Hang Seng index closed down 43.66 points to 8,268.22 on thin turnover of HK\$1.46 billion, against an adjusted HK\$1.77 billion on Friday.

JOHANNESBURG - Equity futures helped lead South African shares to a firmer close in thin trade after a slow start, supported by a steady gold price and stronger world markets. Some window dressing ahead of the unit trust quarter end today was also a factor. The overall index added 29.9 points to 5,839.7, the industrial index was 29.6 points up at 6,961.8 and the gold index closed 22.2 up at 1,976.1.

Profit-taking lowers stocks

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed lower yesterday as investors took profits from a holiday surge that pushed the market up 200 points in 11 days.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 22.20 points to close at 3,839.49, based on early and unofficial data.

In the broader market, declining issues edged out advances 13-8 on moderate trading of 246 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The only strength appeared in Mexican stocks, which bounced back as Mexico's peso recovered somewhat against the dollar.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FF
MARK	0.411021	0.427238	0.643326	3.452128
STERLING	2.427484	—	1.511232	8.375888
YEN	1.554470	0.640273	—	5.365650
SFR	1.194882	0.489088	78.182N	—
FF	0.289459	0.118294	18.582N	0.244146

Source: Comstock Trading Ltd.

LIBOR RATES

Period	Rate
3 months	6.5
6 months	7.0
9 months	7.5
12 months	8.0

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd.

Country	Value
USA	1.00
UK	1.00
FR	1.00

US COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price
Crude Oil	25.00
Natural Gas	1.00
Gold	350.00

London commodities

Commodity	Price
Crude Oil	25.00
Natural Gas	1.00
Gold	350.00

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00
Amir	1.00	-0.00	Amir	1.00	-0.00

Australia races towards decisive Test victory

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Australia took a decisive step towards victory in the second Ashes Test against England yesterday after a devastating burst from pace duo Damien Fleming and Craig McDermott.

After setting England a daunting victory target of 388, Australia reduced them to 79 for four in their second innings at close of play on the fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Fleming, playing his first Test in Australia, and McDermott shared four wickets with the new ball during the final session.

With all hope of winning long gone, England must bat for three more sessions today to save the game and prevent themselves going 2-0 down in the five-Test series.

Their hopes rest squarely on veteran batsman Mike Gatting, who remained 23 not out, and the possible intervention of Melbourne's notoriously fickle weather.

Wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes was the other not out batsman on 13.

Earlier, Australian number three David Boon scored a patient 131 before captain Mark Taylor declared his side's second innings at 320 for seven during the tea interval.

Fleming, who grabbed a hat-

trick on his test debut against Pakistan in October, removed opener Graham Gooch for two with the third ball of his opening over.

Number three batsman Graeme Hick, who made two, followed Gooch back to the pavilion during Fleming's next over when he was bowled comprehensively by a ball which smashed into the off stump after moving sharply off the pitch.

Graham Thorpe, on nine, became McDermott's 250th victim in Test cricket when he edged a wide.

Atherton was then adjudged to have edged a leg-side delivery to Healy although television replays suggested the ball came off the batsman's pad.

With the pitch expected to deteriorate, Taylor will look to leg-spinner Shane Warne to wrap up the England innings today.

Australia, which leads the series following their 184-run victory in last month's first Test in Brisbane, began the day on 170 for three, with Boon 64 not out.

Boon offered a very difficult chance to Hick at slip after adding just six to his overnight score but otherwise played with great tenacity and skill.

In partnership with Michael Bevan, Boon added 112 runs for the fourth wicket, the highest

stand of the match to date. Bevan was eventually dismissed for 35, one of spinner Phil Tufnell's three victims during the innings at a cost of 90 runs.

Paceman Darren Gough, the pick of the English bowlers, also took three wickets, for 34 runs.

Before the start of play yesterday, both sides stood in silence as a mark of respect for former England captain and later chairman of selectors Peter May, who died on Tuesday.

Australia first innings 279
England first innings 212
Australia second innings (overnight 170 for three)

M.Taylor lbw Gough 19
M.Slater st Rhodes b Tufnell 44
D.Boon lbw DeFreitas 131
M.Waugh c & b Gough 29
M.Bevan c sub (Crawley) b Tufnell 35
S.Waugh not out 26
J.Healy c Thorpe b Tufnell 9
S.Warne c DeFreitas b Gough 0
C.McDermott not out 2
Extras (b-1, lb-9, nb-6, w-1) 17
Total (for seven wickets) 320
Fall of wickets: 1-81, 2-81, 3-157, 4-268, 5-275, 6-316, 7-317.
Did not bat: T.May, D.Fleming.
Bowling: Malcolm 22-3-86-0 (nb-2, w-1), DeFreitas 26-7-70-1 (nb-2), Tufnell 48-8-90-3 (nb-2), Gough 25-6-59-3, Hick 3-2-5-0.
England second innings
G.Gooch c Healy b Fleming 2
M.Atherton c Healy b McDermott 25
G.Hick b Fleming 9
G.Thorpe c Healy b McDermott 8
M.Gatting not out 23
S.Rhodes not out 13
Extras (b-2, nb-3) 7
Total (for four wickets) 79
Fall of wickets: 1-3-2-10-3-23-4-43
Bowling: McDermott 10-2-32-2 (nb-3), Fleming 9-1-24-2, Warne 7-1-13-0, May 4-1-8-0.

Dovrosh leads Hap J'lem to big State Cup win

Hapoel Jerusalem shocked Hapoel Tel Aviv last night in the first leg of basketball's State Cup quarter finals winning big at home, 96-74. Jerusalem opened with tenacious defense, especially against Tel Aviv's star Buck Johnson. They forced numerous turnovers as Radenko Dovrosh, William Thompson and John Delzell played brilliantly.

The first half ended 48-28, and the second half was more of the

same as Jerusalem's lead wavered between 15 and 25 points throughout the second half. Dovrosh played a whole of a game, finishing with 30 points, including four three-pointers. For Tel Aviv, Johnson had 20 and Lior Ardit 19, but both had low shooting percentages.

Herzliya 108, Mac Ramat 78
The home team made some

personnel changes after recent failures in the league, changing the starting lineup. The strategy worked as Herzliya raced to a 57-28 first-half lead. Defense was solid but the star, at least early in the game, was Amir Katz who was absolutely phenomenal in racking up 19 points in the first 10 minutes. Katz, however, didn't play too much after that.

Mac TA 116, Mac Ramat Gan 76
Ramat Gan had no chance to beat the league leaders even before its star, Lamont Strothers, had to be scratched from the lineup. It took Tel Aviv just 10 minutes to go up 31-17; at halftime it was 50-32. Ramat Gan surrendered before they even worked up a sweat, and both benches played the second half.

Tonight, Holon visits Givatim in the final first-leg game.

Riley ends worst-ever slump as Knicks nip Nets

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (AP) - The worst losing streak of Pat Riley's coaching career ended at five games when the New York Knicks beat the New Jersey Nets 99-91 Tuesday night behind John Starks's first 20-point game in more than a month.

Starks, who has averaged only 10.6 points in his last 17 games and shot 32 percent from the field, finished with 22 in his best game since scoring 35 on November 14.

Charles Smith added 20, Patrick Ewing 19 and Derek Harper 18 in helping Riley break out of the worst victory drought in 12-plus seasons as a coach.

Chris Morris had 21 points and P.J. Brown added 16 as New Jersey lost its third in a row.

Magic 103, Heat 83
Shaquille O'Neal scored 28 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as Orlando ran its home record to 13-0. Anfernee Hardaway scored 19 and had seven assists for the Magic, who blew the game open with a devastating display of 3-point shooting in the fourth quarter.

The Magic hit five treys in the period, four of them in a 20-2 spurt.

Glen Rice led Miami with 29 points. Ledell Eekies came off the bench to score 16. Kevin Willis and Matt Geiger both had 12.

Pacers 95, Nuggets 91
Rik Smits scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead visiting Indiana. The Pacers, winners of nine of their last 11 meetings with the Nuggets, scored only five points in the final three minutes, but it was enough as Denver managed only six free throws and a Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf three-pointer over that stretch.

Abdul-Rauf finished with 23 points.

Clippers 95, Bulls 92
Pooh Richardson had 21 points and 10 assists and Los Angeles capitalized on the ejection of Bulls star Scottie Pippen to win in Chicago for the first time since January 1979.

Toni Kukoc scored 21 for Chicago, but missed a 3-pointer with two seconds left and also committed eight of Chicago's 27 turnovers. B.J. Armstrong missed 16 of 20 shots as the Bulls' 17-game home winning streak against the Clippers ended.

Pippen had 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting, five rebounds and three assists before he was ejected in the second quarter.

Rockets 105, Hawks 93
Hakeem Olajuwon scored 35 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Houston kept Atlanta coach Larry Wilkins from visiting Red Auerbach's



TONGUE ACTION - Shaquille O'Neal of Orlando uses one hand and his tongue to hoist a shot Tuesday night. (AP)

and 16 rebounds for the Suns, who've won 10 of 11.

Kings 102, Trail Blazers 101
Spud Webb's four-meter fall-away jumper with two seconds left boosted Sacramento at home.

Cliff Robinson, who missed a baseline jumper at the buzzer, had given Portland a 101-100 lead with 12 seconds remaining.

Kings guard Mitch Richmond scored 30 before fouling out with 48 seconds left. Rod Strickland scored 22 and Clyde Drexler had 21 for the Blazers.

Bucks 98, Pistons 88
Marty Connor scored 11 of his 13 points in the final 14 minutes as Milwaukee snapped a 10-game road losing streak. Detroit has lost eight of its last nine games.

Joe Dumars, who failed to score in the first half, scored 11 to lead a 14-2 Pistons surge that pulled them to 68-59 late in the third period. Detroit got within nine twice in the last eight minutes, but never any closer.

Vin Baker led the Bucks with 22 points, while Glenn Robinson had 15. Terry Mills paced the Pistons with 23 points and 11 rebounds, while Dumars added 21.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	22	8	.815	-
New York	18	12	.600	4
New Jersey	16	14	.538	6
Boston	10	18	.357	12
Philadelphia	10	18	.357	12
Miami	8	17	.320	14
Washington	7	17	.292	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	18	8	.692	-
Indiana	16	8	.667	1
Charlotte	14	12	.538	4
Chicago	13	13	.500	5
Atlanta	11	15	.423	7
Detroit	9	15	.375	9
Memphis	8	17	.346	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	18	8	.692	-
Houston	16	8	.667	1.5
San Antonio	14	9	.609	2.5
Denver	13	12	.520	3.5
Sacramento	12	12	.500	4
Minnesota	6	19	.240	11.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	17	9	.654	-
Seattle	17	8	.680	0
LA Lakers	15	9	.625	1.5
San Diego	14	12	.538	3
Portland	12	12	.500	4
Golden State	10	15	.400	7
LA Clippers	6	20	.231	11

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
New York 93, New Jersey 91
Orlando 103, Miami 83
Memphis 95, Detroit 88
LA Clippers 95, Chicago 92
Phoenix 119, Dallas 118
Houston 105, Atlanta 93
San Antonio 119, Charlotte 108
Indiana 95, Denver 91
Golden State 129, LA Lakers 105
Sacramento 102, Portland 101

Striking players give Ripken permission to cross picket line American pastime degenerates into spitball as union takes complaint to labor board

NEW YORK - Major League Baseball owners and players filed unfair labor practice complaints against each other on Tuesday in the latest round of the dispute that stopped the 1994 season early and threatens the 1995 season as well.

But even as the two sides dig in deeper, the strikers have given their blessings to one player to join strikebreakers. In an extraordinary move, the players told Baltimore Orioles' shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. he can cross the picket line to keep his consecutive-games streak alive.

The Houston Post yesterday quoted pitcher Todd Jones of the Houston Astros as saying the players' union told Ripken they wouldn't mind if he's on the field with strikebreakers if that is how owners insist on starting the 1995 season. Ripken is 122 games short of Lou Gehrig's major-league record.

The striking players are seeking a preliminary injunction to prevent the implementation of the owners' salary cap, claiming the owners did not bargain in good faith. The owners claim the union violated federal labor law by negotiating in bad faith.

The complaints were filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in New York.

NLRB New York Regional Director Daniel Silverman said in a statement: "It should be emphasized that our role is to protect the collective bargaining process but not to require any party to agree to a proposal or to require them to make a concession. This dispute must be settled by the parties themselves." The investigation could take four to six weeks.

Former president Jimmy Carter, just back from a peacemaking effort in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has offered his services to bring peace to baseball.

Some players aren't holding their breath: they're heading to Japan where they're sure to find a game.

Ex-major league Bobby Valentine, coach of the Chiba Lotte Marines, on Tuesday signed Pete Incaviglia, Julio Franco and left-handed pitcher Eric Hillman to contracts for the 1995 season.

Incaviglia, who spent last season with the Philadelphia Phillies, got the call from Valentine when the strike was in its third month. Incaviglia saw it as an opportunity to avoid losing a year's salary and the temptation to cross the picket line. (AP, Reuters)

San Diego Padres, Houston Astros swap 11 players

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The San Diego Padres and Houston Astros swapped 12 players yesterday in baseball's biggest deal in 37 years, a trade involving Ken Caminiti, Phil Plantier, Steve Finley and Derek Bell.

Houston sent Caminiti, Finley, infielders Andruw Cedeño and Roberto Petagine, and right-hander Brian Williams to the Pa-

dres, who were bought last Thursday by software tycoon John Moores.

Not only is Moores leaving Texas, but he's taking Texas with him. Ironically, Moores is from Houston.

San Diego dealt Plantier, Bell, left-hander Pedro Martinez, right-hander Doug Brocail and infielders Craig Shipley and

Ricky Gutierrez. The Padres, a major league worst 47-70 last season, also will receive an additional player later.

The deal, the first move by any team since owners imposed a salary cap last Friday, involves a father-son combo. Tal Smith was hired November 22 as the Astros president. His son Randy is the Padres general manager.

NFL season belonged to Young, Sanders

NEW YORK (AP) - Steve Young took another record away from Joe Montana and Cris Carter and proved he could do more than "only catch touchdown passes" with a new mark for receptions.

But Barry Sanders may have provided more excitement than anyone.

Young finished the season with a quarterback rating of 112.8, higher than the 112.4 set by Montana in 1989.

Young, who now has had a rating of 100 or more for four straight years, was Montana's backup that season.

Carter, cut by Philadelphia just before the 1990 season "because all he can do is catch touchdown passes, nothing between the 20s," had 122 catches for the Vikings, 10 more than Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe had last year in

setting the previous record. Ironically, Carter had just seven TDs, four fewer than he had the season before he was cut.

WILD CARD PLAYOFFS
(all times Israel)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
Detroit at Green Bay, 7:30 pm
Kansas City at Miami, 11:00 pm
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
N. England at Cleveland, 7:30 pm
Chicago at Minnesota, 11:00 pm

Jerry Rice, who broke Jim Brown's career mark of 126 touchdowns in the season opener, finished with 15 TDs and 139 for his career. He also equaled Sharpe's record of 112 receptions and led the league with 1,499 receiving yards.

Sanders, on course all year for 2,000 rushing yards and within range of Eric Dickerson's record of 2,105, ended up with 1,883 as defenses stacked eight-and-nine-

man fronts against him and the Detroit Lions.

Still, that ended Emmitt Smith's three-season reign as the league's rushing champion and was the fourth best total in NFL history.

Other leaders were John Carney of San Diego with 135 points on 33-for-33 on points after and 34-for-38 field goals; Aeneas Williams of Arizona and Eric Turner of Cleveland with nine interceptions; Kevin Greene of Pittsburgh with 14 sacks; Sean Landeta of the Los Angeles Rams with a 44.8 punting average; Brian Mitchell of Washington with a punt return average of 14.1 and Mel Gray of Detroit with a kick-off return average of 28.4.

Tim Bowens, who had been regarded as a longshot, was selected the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Seconds tick down on NHL season

NEW YORK (AP) - With no talks scheduled and not so much as a phone call exchanged between the main negotiators Tuesday, prospects for saving the NHL season appeared bleak.

"We are in the final seconds, there is no doubt about it," Brian Burke, the league's director of operations, said. "I think there are two excellent reasons to be discouraged at this point: One, there is a very significant gulf in our respective positions. And two, there is no dialog."

For the 13th day there was no communication between NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow.

On Monday, union sources said Goodenow likely would call Bettman, but never did.

Ra'anana lady bowlers in a class of their own

A round-robin trios competition for women bowlers ended with an all-Ra'anana final.

Hadassah Fisher with Eileen Freedman and Judy Stone beat Louise Braverman, Isobel Myers and Chana Goldberg 21-5 at the Ramat Hasharon Club.

Two Kfar Hamaccabiah sides played for third position, and in an even contest, Carmel Scop, Pinna Gelbgisser and Joyce La-sovsky came through to win 16-13 against Lorraine Rabman, Phyllis Collins and Faith Melman.

The event was sponsored by Justine Cosmetics.

ENGLISH SOCCER RESULTS:
Premier League: Aston Villa 3, Chelsea 0; Blackburn v Leeds postponed; Ipswich 0, Arsenal 2; Liverpool 2, Manchester City 0; Manchester United 1, Leicester 1; Queens Park Rangers 2, Southampton 2; Sheffield Wednesday 3, Coventry 1; Wimbledon 1, West Ham 0.

Soccer juniors beat France; youths fall to Romania

THE junior soccer squad's campaign to defend its title got off to a perfect start yesterday in the opening match of the 20th Annual Winter Youth Soccer Tournament in Lod.

The juniors (under-16s) scored an impressive 2-0 victory against France. The youth side (under-18s), however, lost 1-0 to Romania later in the day at Ashkelon.

The juniors overcame early pressure by the French, then began to find its stride, creating a number of well-designed attacking moves as the first half progressed.

Ron Vilner opened the scoring

in the 52nd minute, collecting the ball in the French area from Dadi Ben-Dayana and hitting home from eight meters.

Five minutes later a short free kick to Ben-Dayana was blasted past a defensive wall and into the net from a distance of around 20 meters.

In other junior matches played yesterday Turkey beat Malta 4-0 and Sweden notched a 2-1 victory against Iceland.

The youth side came upon a well-organized outfit. The Romanians had the greater share of

possession and despite creating some dangerous attacking plays, the Israelis were unable to hit home.

Romania's goal came from a 54th-minute corner that was drilled into the net by unmarked Vitali Orlan, to the disappointment of the large partisan crowd.

In other youth action, Cyprus drew 2-2 with Hungary and Turkey beat Malta 4-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES:
Juniors - Israel v. Malta, Holon, noon; France v. Iceland, Lod, noon; Turkey v. Sweden, Yotvata, 2 p.m.; Youth - Israel v. Switzerland, Lod, 2 p.m.; Romania v. Cyprus, Holon, 2 p.m.; Greece v. Hungary, Yotvata, 2 p.m.

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מכרזים ודוכנים

11:00 I Love Lucy 11:30 Celeste
12:15 Neighbors 12:40 Falcon Crest
13:30 Designing Women 14:00 Israeli
Clips 14:15 I'll Fly Away 15:00 Topex
15:45 Knots Landing 16:35 Neighbors
21:30 NBC News Magazine 22:30 In-
side Edition 23:00 ITN World News
23:30 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
00:30 Real Personal 1:00 UK Today
1:30 NBC Nightly News

- 2 Works (5)
- 3 Playhouse (7)
- 4 Careless (6)
- 5 Causing irritation (5)
- 6 Leave mark (7)
- 7 Say hello (5)
- 12 Metal sulphate (4)
- 14 Either (4)
- 16 Voltaire classic (7)
- 18 Retribution (7)
- 19 Opponent of change (7)
- 21 Bird (6)
- 22 Schedules (5)
- 23 Test (5)
- 25 Say (5)

22 Schedules (5)
23 Test (5)
25 Say (5)

22 Schedules (5)
23 Test (5)
25 Say (5)

1

Court reduces sentence of Yair Levy in split ruling

THE Supreme Court yesterday reduced former Shas MK Yair Levy's prison sentence from five years to four, in a rare ruling in which each of the three judges had a different sentencing recommendation.

In such a case, the law states that the centrist opinion is binding.

The court also unanimously overturned the half-year prison term of Levy's wife, Geula, leaving her subject only to a two-year suspended sentence.

Levy was convicted nearly two years ago of 252 counts of embezzlement, aggravated forgery, falsifying corporate documents, fraud and breach of trust.

According to the charge sheet,

he had embezzled some NIS 312,000 over a three-year period from El Hama'ayan - a non-profit organization of which he was managing director - by forging checks, writing false receipts for non-existent expenses and other methods. His wife, who assisted him, was convicted of forgery.

Partway through the trial, the state reached a plea agreement, under which Levy would admit to the charges in exchange for a punishment of only 40 months in prison plus a NIS 275,000 fine. His wife agreed to confess in exchange for a promise of a suspended sentence only.

However, the Tel Aviv District Court rejected this agreement.

and instead sentenced Levy to five years in prison plus a NIS 275,000 fine, and his wife to six months' community service.

The Levys appealed to the Supreme Court, saying the district court had no right to ignore the plea bargain agreement. The prosecution supported the Levys' argument.

The justices, however, reached three different conclusions, based on three different lines of reasoning.

Justice Eliczer Goldberg said courts should respect plea agreements in general but not if the prosecution agreed to a punishment that fell "significantly" short of the appropriate level, because this would destroy the de-

terrent effect of punishment.

After comparing the sentences imposed on bank employees who embezzled - who, Goldberg said, were similar in terms of their responsibilities and the trust reposed in them - he concluded that the agreement reached with Levy did impose a genuinely inappropriate punishment, and therefore recommended leaving the sentence as it was.

"The punishment requested by the prosecution... does not send the appropriate message to criminals, and it is far from serving as a clear and unequivocal warning," he wrote.

Justice Eliahu Mazza, in con-

trast, argued that plea bargains should always be respected, even if the punishment is very light, unless the prosecution's motivations in making the deal were improper or the deal clearly hurts the public interest.

In this case, the prosecution's reasons were that the deal would significantly shorten the trial, that it would free the prosecuting team to work on another case of great public interest (that of former interior minister Aryeh Deri), and that it was important that Levy admit to his crimes, given his repeated accusations that the police were persecuting him because he was a religious Sephardi.

Since these reasons are unex-

ceptional, and the deal does not hurt the public interest, Mazza said, Levy is correct in arguing that the plea bargain should have been respected.

Justice Mishael Cheshin agreed with Goldberg's general approach, saying the courts and not the prosecution must be the final arbiters of sentencing.

However, he said, the defendant's willingness to make a bargain, the expectations the bargain arouses in him, and the need for the courts to show collegial respect for the prosecution should all serve as mitigating factors in the sentencing, and that therefore both the district court and Goldberg erred in not giving the plea bargain any weight at all.

Cheshin recommended setting Levy's sentence at four years, a sentence which he said the district court probably would have accepted as a plea bargain in the first place. Since this was the median suggestion of the three, it became the final ruling.

With regard to Geula Levy, even Goldberg agreed that the punishment reached in the plea bargain was appropriate. He cited her comparatively minor role in the crime, the fact that everything she did was only to please her husband, and that she has seven young children.

All three justices therefore recommended converting her term of community service to a suspended sentence.

Jerusalem police have no objection to closing Bar-Ilan on Shabbat

BILL HUTMAN

HAREDI demands for the Shabbat closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan in Jerusalem were given a boost yesterday when Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit ruled the road's closure would not adversely affect police operations.

Senior police officers in recent weeks had indicated that police might oppose the closure of Bar-Ilan, a major city thoroughfare, on grounds it would force patrols to use more roundabout routes.

Yesterday, however, Amit told the committee appointed by City Hall to look into Shabbat road closings that he would not object to the closure of Bar-Ilan, or any other road now being considered for Shabbat closure.

Committee chairman Eliczer Sturm said Amit made it clear that police wanted a decision on street closures to be made soon, since there have been demonstrations and confrontations on Rehov Bar-Ilan for several consecutive weekends.

Sturm's committee, appointed by Mayor Ehud Olmert in September, is eluding to accept a compromise proposal, under which Bar-Ilan is closed during Friday evening, and Saturday morning and evening prayers, Sturm said.

He stressed, however, that no final decision had been taken, and that it may be several more weeks before the committee wraps up its work.

Committee members recently rejected a proposal by Sturm to meet more often, in hopes of

compiling recommendations sooner.

"We still have more people we must talk with, religious leaders, political leaders, and others," Sturm said.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said that a protocol from the meeting states clearly that "Amit told the committee police would not make a recommendation on the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan or any other streets."

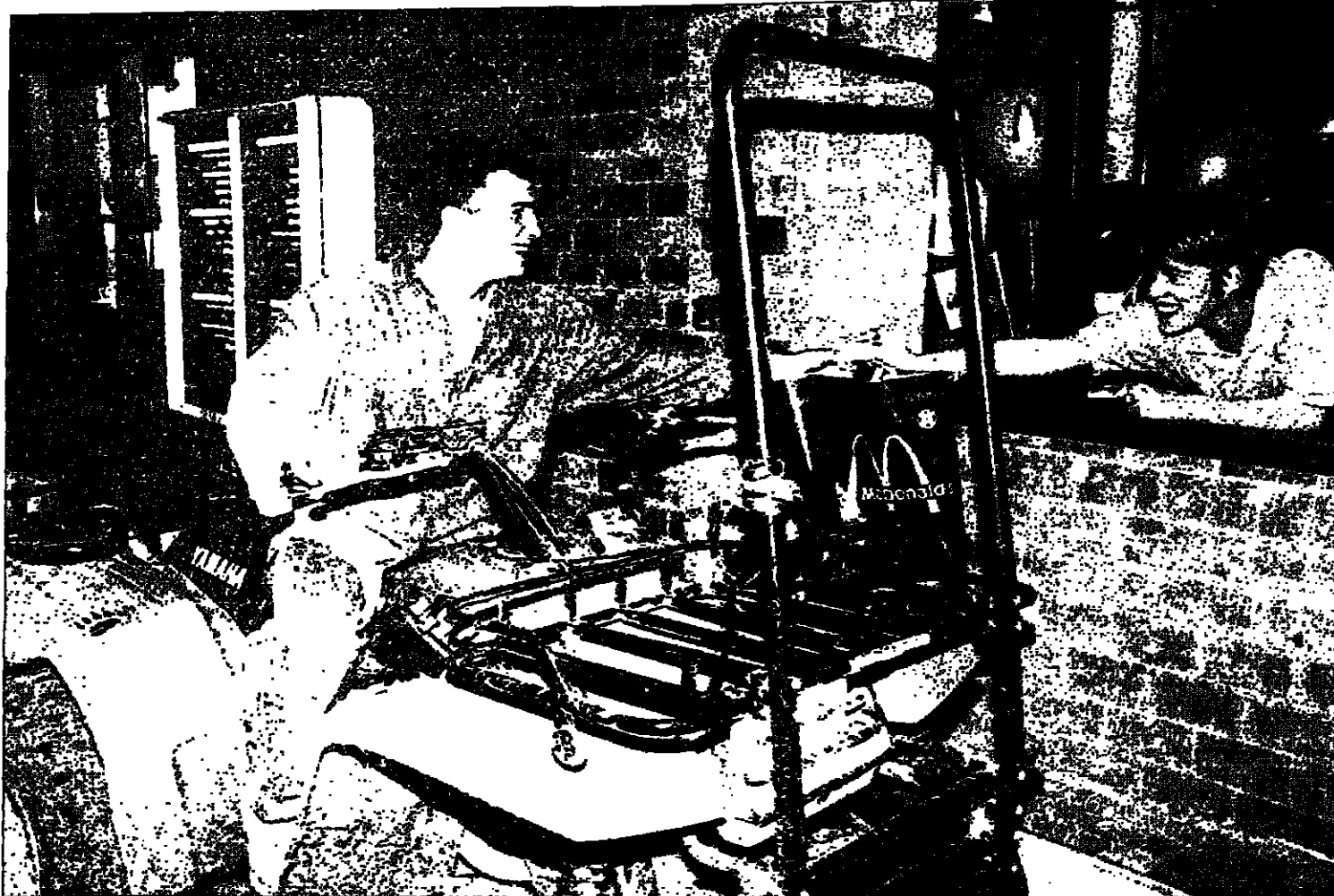
"Amit said that the police will honor whatever decision the mayor takes on the matter," Ben-Ruby said.

Meanwhile, in a letter sent this week to city councilor Nurit Yardeni-Levy (One Jerusalem), Amit accuses secular protesters of heating up the atmosphere on Rehov Bar-Ilan.

"The demonstrations fuel the anti-driving activity [by the haredim]," Amit wrote, in a letter responding to allegations by Levy that the police were not doing enough to protect Shabbat drivers on Bar-Ilan.

"Before the demonstrations began, we succeeded with relative ease to calm the situation and secure those driving on the road," Amit wrote.

Amit had previously told Levy that police undercover units, in addition to uniformed officers, were operating on Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat in an effort to keep the peace.



Israel's first McDonald's drive-in was officially opened yesterday at the Golani junction in the north. The drive-in, the first McDonald's restaurant to be established in the north, is the seventh in the country. The restaurant is open seven days a week, and employs 150 people from towns and villages in the area. A spokesperson for the company said it was decided to establish the restaurant and drive-in at the site because the Golani junction was one of the busiest in the north.

Histadrut fires 600 labor council workers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut yesterday fired 600 labor council workers, in coordination with the workers' national union. However, no agreement concerning the terms of dismissal has been reached.

Muli Oren, of the Histadrut's organization section, said the workers' demand for severance pay is 5% higher than that given the fired Histadrut and tax collection department workers.

The firings will take effect on January 31, and the workers may take off from work during next month to look for new jobs. Workers with more than 10 years' seniority will receive an extra sum equivalent to three months' pay.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that if Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon wants to return to Labor, he must join the party's Histadrut faction.

Rabin said he does not rule out the possibility that Ramon would run against him and Labor in the 1996 elections, despite his promise not to do so unless Rabin retired.

Rabin spoke at a meeting with local labor council heads and the head of the Histadrut's organization section, Pinni Shomer, who asked for his support in the face of what they called Ramon's attempts to destroy Labor's infra-

structure in the Histadrut.

"There are those who are calling Ramon to return to the party," Rabin said. "You haven't heard me [doing so]. I will not have a man with two passports. He must either merge with the [Labor] faction or not. I see no way back to the party if the two Histadrut factions are not united."

Rabin predicted the attempt to legislate an organization tax to finance the Histadrut's activities would not pass the Knesset, adding that he does not intend to intervene in the talks between Ramon and the employers concerning a pay deduction in lieu of the tax.

Complaint alleges elderly murder suspect was beaten

RAINE MARCUS

THE lawyer for Miriam Weissman, suspected of murdering her 33-year-old daughter, has filed a complaint with the Justice Ministry's police investigations division, saying his client was beaten by detectives questioning her.

An autopsy showed that Natalie Weissman was suffocated while she was sleeping, and police believe that her parents, Michael, 72, and Miriam, 74, murdered her.

Yesterday lawyer Eyal Shomroni-Cohen, appointed by the court to defend the couple, complained that Miriam Weissman had been roughly treated in the interrogation room.

According to the complaint, a detective questioning her pushed a table into her chest and caused her severe breathing difficulties.

"She could not breathe, and nearly lost consciousness," said Shomroni-Cohen. According to the complaint, the detective also blew smoke in her face, held an iron bar above her head in a threatening manner, and called her a whore and a murderer.

Private eyes questioned in wiretap probe

RAINE MARCUS

AS PART of their wiretapping investigation involving national newspapers, police questioned four private detectives yesterday about whether they have connections with Ma'ariv or any other paper, a police source said.

The questioning follows recent revelations that the phones of senior Ma'ariv reporters were bugged. Tapes were found in the possession of the owners of the Shef private investigation company.

Police summoned private detectives Micha Rotem, Shef director Yisrael Podiat, Moshe Levy and convicted wiretapper Hani Mizaki - who was brought from prison - for questioning at the National Crimes Squad Petah Tikva headquarters. Rotem, a former police officer, has been questioned several times in the past, as have scores of other private investigators, Bezak, and newspaper employees and publishers.

Since April, police have been trying to find out who commissioned widespread wiretapping from private detectives Rafi Friedman, and Ya'acov Tsur, currently awaiting trial on 38 counts of bugging phones, cellular phones and faxes of businessmen, senior media personnel and politicians.

Senior officers said that although the culprit's identity is well known to them, no admissible proof is available.

CD-ROM data base compiler remanded for seven days

RAINE MARCUS

REUVEN Milman, 31, suspected of compiling and marketing a CD-ROM data base containing personal information on the citizenry, was remanded for seven days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Milman said in court that even Bezak and the police had shown an interest in buying the disc, which contains cross-referenced information based on the phone book, Companies' Register, and Voters' List.

The NIS 3,000 disc, which has been used for some time by private investigators and some national newspapers, can find out addresses, based on phone numbers; how many shares someone has in certain companies; where someone votes; and even how many children a certain individual has.

Milman denied committing any crime and claimed the public has access to all information, so he was not violating privacy.

But Judge Hayuta Cohen said that anyone having access to her date of birth is violating her privacy.

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The Children of Israel passed by during their forty years of wandering. King Solomon built his navy here, the Queen of Sheba visited, the Scandinavians come in their droves and now The Jerusalem Post Travel Club and Shorashim are running a stimulating and informative English-speaking 4-day tour.

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Histadrut authorized to sell Hevrat Ha'Ovdim assets

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

OFFICIAL Receiver Shmuel Tsur has ruled that the Histadrut may sell the assets of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim to cover Kupat Holim Clalit's debts.

Attorney Zion Bayer had petitioned the High Court of Justice a few weeks ago, after the Hevrat Ha'Ovdim convention decided to sell the company's Bank Hapoalim and Koor stock and use NIS 430 million of the money it received to pay Clalit creditors.

Bayer argued that Hevrat Ha'Ovdim's assets belonged to the Histadrut's 1.6 million members and selling them constitutes an infringement on their rights.

The court referred Bayer to Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, who appointed Official Receiver Shmuel Tsur to sort out the situation. He ruled that

the sale was in keeping with the interests of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim's members.

"If in times of affluence, the Histadrut transferred part of its members' fees to investments in Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, why should the constitution not enable putting part of these investments at the disposal of the Histadrut in its time of need," Tsur ruled.

It is not yet clear whether Bayer will now appeal the decision.

PEACE-YES! SETTLEMENTS-NO!

The Government is allowing the settlers to continue building settlements.

A new settlement on the lands of el-Hadr (near Efrat) is politically absurd and a gross violation of the peace process.

New settlements will benefit only those who oppose peace.

This blunder on the part of the Israeli Government will serve the cause of the Hamas and the extremist elements among the settlers.

The Government that has chosen to make peace with the Palestinians must put a freeze on settlements.

Join us at el-Hadr in support of an Israeli-Palestinian peace, and against the creation of settlements.

DEMONSTRATION

Friday, December 30th, 1994.

Busses: Tel Aviv, Arlozoroff Train Station 10:30. Jerusalem, Liberty Bell Garden (parking lot) 12:00.

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